

28 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Bun-sgoil Lacasdail - Laxdale Primary School and Sgoil-Àraich. Staff use the term sgoil-àraich for both the playroom for English and Gàidhlig Medium Education. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the work of the sgoil-àraich and school. Unless stated, these apply across both Gàidhlig and English Medium Education.

- The head of school, nursery manager and staff lead change well. They make a positive difference to their own practice and to that of the whole school. As a staff team, they are continuing to develop Bun-sgoil Lacasdail - Laxdale Primary School and Sgoil-Àraich as a caring, inclusive and nurturing school, in which children can be ambitious and creative.
- Children engage very well with a rich range of experiences that are planned for them in and beyond the school. These raise children's attainment, support wellbeing, and build children's performing and digital skills.
- The staff team's leadership of total immersion results in most children's confidence and fluency in using Gàidhlig. Teachers are skilled in using a range of immersion approaches that are delivered in high-quality fluency. They focus well on grammar and local dialect.
- Staff and children work well with partners to plan activities that focus on health and wellbeing. These are recognised with external recognition.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head of school and a representative from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Unless stated, these apply across the school, both for Gaelic and English Medium Education.

- Teachers should continue to close gaps in attainment. Children should be clear of their own strengths in learning, how to keep improving and know the skills they are acquiring.
- The head of school should maintain a more formal and ongoing strategic overview of the curriculum. This should ensure all key areas of learning are taken forward in a progressive way from stage to stage. A starting point is the further planning of equality, diversity and aspects of the health and wellbeing curriculum.
- Staff should ensure that total immersion play has sufficient focus on adults leading activities and using Gàidhlig on a very regular basis.
- Staff should continue to build on their use of Gàidhlig, fluency and professional learning to raise children's attainment in Gaelic (Learners).

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Bun-sgoil Lacasdail - Laxdale Primary School and Nursery Class.

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Joan Esson
HM Inspector