



**REPORT BY HM INSPECTORS OF EDUCATION: SGOIL AN TAIRBEIRT – SIR E SCOTT SCHOOL  
AUGUST 2025**

Report by Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services

## **PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to inform the Comhairle of the outcome of the inspection of Sgoil an Tairbeirt - Sir E Scott School by His Majesty's Inspectors from Education Scotland.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sgoil an Tairbeirt - Sir E Scott School for a full model inspection involving a five-day visit to the school.
- 2.2 Education Scotland published an inspection report in the form of a letter on 19 August 2025. The letter sets out:
- the school's key strengths and agreed areas for improvement.
  - evaluative judgements against quality indicators from Education Scotland using their six-point scales.
  - signposting to the online summarised inspection findings (SIF) on Education Scotland's website, where further detail and recommendations are laid out.
- 2.3 Upon conclusion of the inspection, Senior Education Officers have commenced work with the staff of the school to develop and implement an action plan to address the agreed areas for improvement under the direction of the Chief Education Officer.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**3.1 It is recommended that the Comhairle:**

- (a) **note the findings of the Inspection Report, including key strengths and areas for development; and**
- (b) **supports Sgoil an Tairbeirt - Sir E Scott to develop and implement an effective action plan which will address the areas for improvement within the HMI report.**

Contact Officer: David Downham – Quality Improvement Officer Secondary  
Appendix: [Inspection letter - Sir E Scott August 2025](#)  
Background Papers: [How Good is Our School 4th Edition](#)



## IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	There will be no financial implications to support delivery of the action plan.
Legal	None
Staffing	Supporting delivery of the post-inspection action plan will involve additional support from Senior Education Officers and possible deployment of other school managers to provide peer/mentoring support.
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities/Child Rights	Applicable UNCRC Articles: 28 – A Right to Education 29 – Goals of Education
Corporate Strategy	Support Children, Families and Young People: - Raise ambition and attainment, in particular to address inequalities.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

## BACKGROUND

- 5.1 In the model for inspection Education Scotland evaluate the setting using their own scale and provide feedback on areas of strength and improvement. The report can also include notification of further inspection if that is deemed to be required. Sgoil-àraich an Tairbeirt - nursery class was inspected by Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore, Education Scotland agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.
- 5.2 Education Scotland evaluates schools and setting against four key quality indicators using their national six-point scale as set out below:

1	Excellent	Outstanding or Sector Leading
2	Very Good	Major Strengths
3	Good	Important Strengths, with some areas of improvement
4	Satisfactory	Strengths just out-weigh weaknesses
5	Weak	Important weaknesses – priority action required
6	Unsatisfactory	Major Weaknesses – urgent remedial action required

## DETAIL

6.1 The inspection team found the following strengths in Sgoil an Tairbeirt's work.

- Children and young people are polite, respectful and articulate. They enjoy caring and positive relationships with staff and are keen to learn and achieve well.



- Children, young people and staff are proud speakers of Gàidhlig - Gaelic. Children and young people in Gàidhlig Medium Education make positive progress in their fluency.
- Children and young people achieve well in music and cultural, language and sporting events, both locally and nationally.

6.2 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

- Senior leaders should take prompt action to improve the strategic and collective leadership of the school. In doing so, they should strengthen their skills in identifying what is working well and what needs to improve across the school. Leadership at all levels should be developed further to achieve a brisk pace of change.
- Senior and middle leaders, along with staff, should develop further high-quality learning, teaching, assessment and moderation. Teachers should ensure they have accurate data and use it more effectively to enhance children's and young people's progress and attainment from P1 to S3.
- Senior leaders should be supported by the local authority to extend Gàidhlig Medium and Learner Education at the secondary stages. The current achievements offer through Gàidhlig should be outlined clearly, ensuring young people know how to develop their fluency both in class and beyond, year by year.
- All staff should ensure they refresh regularly and apply professional learning inequalities and inclusion. Senior leaders should ensure all children and young people, requiring targeted support for their learning and development, have immediate and thorough support plans and processes in place.
- Senior leaders and staff should establish a clear strategy to enhance children's and young people's progress, attainment and achievement. This strategy should build on recent improvements in S4, ensuring a broad curriculum that integrates digital technology and contributions from partners to strengthen what teachers offer. The curriculum for young people in S6 requires further development.

6.3 Education Scotland's evaluations for Sgoil an Tairbeirt - Sir E Scott School

Quality Indicators for the Whole School	Evaluation
Leadership of Change	Weak
Learning, Teaching & Assessment	Satisfactory
Ensuring Wellbeing, Equity, and Inclusion	Weak
Raising Attainment & Achievement	Satisfactory

6.4 The managing inspector states that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. The inspection team will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within a year of the publication of the letter.

6.5 The school with the support of Education, Skills and Children's Services Department senior officers have created an action plan that addresses the areas for improvement and other aspects for development outlined in the inspection process. Additional support resources have also been provided to the school in the interest of meeting the actions within the plan.



## CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Education, Skills and Children's Services department senior officers will continue to provide support and challenge to the school through regular school visits and monitoring of the action plan. Elected Members will be kept informed of progress.

