



**REPORT BY HM INSPECTORS OF EDUCATION: SGOIL BHAILE A' BHANAICH JUNE 2024**

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 Bhaile a' Mhanaich and their Sgoil Àraich by His Majesty's Inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate jointly.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich agus Sgoil Àraich in April 2024 for a full model inspection involving a five-day visit to the school and its nursery.
- 2.2 Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate jointly published an inspection report in the form of a letter on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The letter sets out:
- the school's key strengths and agreed areas for improvement.
  - evaluative judgements against quality indicators from Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate for the school and Sgoil Àraich 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, the Executive Headteacher for the Uist Primary Schools and the Early Years Support Officer 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 Head of Education.

**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 Bhaile a' Mhanaich agus Sgoil Àraich to develop and implement an effective action plan which will address the areas for improvement within the HMI report.**

Contact Officer: Mary Clare Ferguson – Head of Education  
Appendix: [Inspection Letter – Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich June 2024](#)  
Background Papers: [How Good is Our School? 4<sup>th</sup> Edition \(HGIOS4\)](#)  
[How Good is Our ELC? \(HGIOELC\)](#)

## IMPLICATIONS

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

<b>Resource Implications</b>	<b>Implications/None</b>
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 the Executive Headteacher and the Early Years Support Officer.
Assets and Property	Some internal improvements within the Sgoil Àraich.
<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Implications/None</b>
Risk	None
Equalities	Applicable UNCRC Articles: 28 – A Right to Education 29 – Goals of Education
Corporate Strategy	<b>Support Children, Families and Young People:</b> - Raise ambition and attainment, in particular to address inequalities.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

## BACKGROUND

- 5.1 In the model for inspection, where there is a joint inspection between Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate, they each evaluate the settings using their own scales 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.
- 5.2 Education Scotland evaluates schools and setting against four key quality indicators using their national six-point scale as set out below:

<b>6</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Outstanding – Sector leading
<b>5</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	The school has major strengths in this area
<b>4</b>	<b>Good</b>	The school has important strengths but there are some areas for improvement
<b>3</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	Strengths of the school just out-weigh weaknesses
<b>2</b>	<b>Weak</b>	The school has important weaknesses in this area
<b>1</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	There are major weaknesses in the work of the school which require immediate remedial action

- 5.3 The Care Inspectorate uses a slightly different six-point scale with minor variations in definitions when providing evaluations of Early Learning and Childcare settings, including when jointly inspecting with Education Scotland.

<b>6</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	Outstanding or Sector leading
<b>5</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Major Strengths
<b>4</b>	<b>Good</b>	Important strengths, with some areas for improvement
<b>3</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	Strengths just out-weigh weaknesses
<b>2</b>	<b>Weak</b>	Important weaknesses – priority action required
<b>1</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	Major weaknesses – urgent remedial action required

## DETAIL

- 6.1 The joint inspection report highlighted the following strengths of the school. Unless otherwise stated, these apply across the Sgoil Àraich and the school through the mediums of Gàidhlig and English.

- Children demonstrate a strong understanding of emotional and physical wellbeing. They enjoy very positive relationships with staff. Children feel safe, supported, and nurtured.
- In the school, children focus well on a range of motivating real-life learning activities. Children respond well to teachers' enthusiasm for teaching. This contributes to children making positive progress in their learning.
- In Gàidhlig Medium Education, children benefit from strong immersion experiences that result in their high-quality fluency in Gàidhlig. Across the school, children talk articulately and with confidence to a range of audiences.
- The staff team, led by the Head of School, work well together and with partners, to provide a range of meaningful opportunities and insights into the world of work. In the school, children recognise how personally, and in work, they can contribute to sustaining Gàidhlig language and culture.

- 6.2 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Head of School and Comhairle officers.

- Senior leaders and practitioners should plan learning in the Sgoil Àraich to enable children to be immersed in Gaelic, follow their interests, and be curious and creative. All parents/carers requiring Gàidhlig Medium Education should have a total immersion place for their child in the Sgoil Àraich.
- Senior leaders and staff should raise further children's attainment, particularly at Curriculum for Excellence first level.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to develop the curriculum, including play-based learning, Gaelic (Learners) and technologies.

- Senior leaders and staff should ensure that all children have leadership roles. Children need to be aware of the resulting skills from all opportunities for achievements.

6.3 Education Scotland quality indicator evaluations for Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich primary classes based on 'How Good is Our School 4' were:

Leadership of Change	<b>Good</b>
Learning, Teaching & Assessment	<b>Good</b>
Ensuring Wellbeing, Equity, and Inclusion	<b>Very Good</b>
Raising Attainment & Achievement	<b>Good</b>

6.4 Education Scotland quality indicator evaluations for Sgoil Àraich classes based on 'How Good is Our ELC' were:

Leadership of Change	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Learning, Teaching & Assessment	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Ensuring Wellbeing, Equity, and Inclusion	<b>Satisfactory</b>
Securing Children's Progress	<b>Good</b>

6.5 The Care Inspectorate evaluated the Sgoil Àraich provision against their framework as follows:

<b>Key Question 1</b> How good is our care, play and learning?	<b>Good</b>
1.1 Nurturing care and support	<b>Good</b>
1.3 Play and learning	<b>Good</b>
<b>Key Question 2</b> How good is our setting?	<b>Adequate</b>
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	<b>Adequate</b>
<b>Key Question 3</b> How good is our leadership?	<b>Adequate</b>
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	<b>Adequate</b>
<b>Key Question 4</b> How good is our staff team?	<b>Good</b>
4.3 Staff deployment	<b>Good</b>

- 6.6 In addition to the evaluations above, the Care Inspectorate made two requirements and identified one area for improvement as set out in the letter of findings.
- 6.7 The managing inspector has stated that the school has the capacity to continue to improve with the support of local authority officers and the Inspectorate will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The Authority will continue to support the School and Sgoil Àraich on their improvement journey.
- 6.8 With the support of Education and Children's Services department senior officers, the school and Sgoil Àraich has created an action plan that addresses the areas for improvement and other aspects for development outlined in the inspection process.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The Executive Headteacher and the Early Years Support Officer will continue to provide support and challenge to the school and Sgoil Àraich through regular school visits and monitoring of the action plan.