

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Education
to Cabinet
of 17 February 2026**

**Subject: Inspection of Southcraig School: Education Scotland
Report**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Education Scotland Inspection of Southcraig School.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1.1 considers the contents of the National report by Education Scotland as contained in [Appendix 1](#); and**
- 2.1.2 agrees that the main points for action will be addressed by the Headteacher and Quality Improvement Manager.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Education Scotland inspectors inspected the school in September 2025 and looked at some particular aspects of the school's recent work. The inspection was carried out using the full inspection model. This involves inspectors evaluating leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; curriculum (learning pathways); partnerships (impact on learners/ parental engagement); safeguarding; wellbeing, equality and inclusion; and raising attainment and achievement.
- 3.2 The report for Southcraig School was published on 11th November 2025.
- 3.3 The inspection of Southcraig School found the following key strengths:
- The Headteacher, senior leaders and staff have embedded the school values of happiness, respect, independence, inclusion and communication very well. This results in a school culture based on warm, caring and nurturing relationships.
 - Children and young people are proud of their extensive and varied range of achievements. They are developing well their confidence, independence and communication skills.

- Staff provide children and young people with high levels of sensitive, compassionate support. Staff are dedicated to upholding children's rights and are highly attuned to the needs of learners.
- Staff have developed successful approaches to make sure that children and young people progress well in their learning. They are strongly committed to promoting equality and celebrating diversity.

3.4 Education Scotland Inspectors agreed the following key points for action with the leadership team of the school and educational services:

- Teachers should continue to adapt their learning and teaching approaches to ensure that all lessons are set at the right level of difficulty. This will help accelerate the progress that children and young people are making.
- Senior leaders should continue to strengthen their approaches to using data and information to check that children and young people are making progress. Staff should continue to expand the range of learning pathways available for all children and young people.

3.5 The Headteacher of Southcraig School will link with the Quality Improvement Manager to build on the strengths identified in the inspection report and address the key points for action.

4. Detail

4.1 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the key strengths and points for action in the Education Scotland report and agrees to the Headteacher addressing these in conjunction with the Quality Improvement Manager.

4.2 Given the positive nature of the report there will be no further visits by Education Scotland in relation to this inspection.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 ***Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

- 8.2.1 Educational Services may be downgraded as part of the Shared Risk Assessment process carried out by the Local Area Network responsible for scrutiny if the service does not address the main points for action.

9. **Integrated Impact Assessment (incorporating Equalities)**

- 9.1 The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

10. **Sustainable Development Implications**

- 10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. **Options Appraisal**

- 11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. **Link to Council Plan**

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority Two of the Council Plan: Live, Work, Learn and Outcome One: Education and lifelong learning.

13. **Link to Shaping Our Future Council** Yes No

- 13.1 Not applicable.

14. **Results of Consultation**

- 14.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this paper.
- 14.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor William Grant, Portfolio Holder for Education, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

15. **Next Steps for Decision Tracking**

- 15.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Director of Education will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

Implementation	Due date	Managed by
Meeting to be arranged with the Headteacher to agree a plan to address the action points contained in the report and monitor progress in conjunction with the planned programme of visits	June 2026	Quality Improvement Manager

Background Papers **None**

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Date: **21 January 2026**



11 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Southcraig School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children/young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The headteacher, senior leaders and staff have embedded the school values of happiness, respect, independence, inclusion and communication very well. This results in a school culture based on warm, caring and nurturing relationships.
- Children and young people are proud of their extensive and varied range of achievements. They are developing well their confidence, independence and communication skills.
- Staff provide children and young people with high levels of sensitive, compassionate support. Staff are dedicated to upholding children's rights and are highly attuned to the needs of learners.
- Staff have developed successful approaches to make sure that children and young people progress well in their learning. They are strongly committed to promoting equality and celebrating diversity.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from South Ayrshire Council.

- Teachers should continue to adapt their learning and teaching approaches to ensure that all lessons are set at the right level of difficulty. This will help accelerate the progress that children and young people are making.
- Senior leaders should continue to strengthen their approaches to using data and information to check that children and young people are making progress. Staff should continue to expand the range of learning pathways available for all children and young people.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Southcraig School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Southcraig School | Inspection Report | 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. South Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Tommy Donnelly
HM Inspector