

27 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Papdale Primary School Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager and practitioners.

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

- The leadership of the manager who motivates all practitioners to continually improve their practice to ensure the best learning experiences for children. Improvements in the nursery take place at a pace which ensures they become part of daily practice.
- Practitioners who have developed positive relationships with children and families. They have made a nurturing, inclusive environment for children to successfully play and learn. This has led to happy, settled, and confident children who greatly enjoy their time at nursery.
- Practitioners who have a sound understanding of how children can learn through play. This has led to the creation of a rich, meaningful, enabling learning environment with high-quality experiences and opportunities.
- Strong partnership working with other professionals which leads to families being well supported by both nursery staff and other professionals.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager and a representative from Orkney Islands Council.

- Further develop leadership roles for practitioners and children. This will effectively support the on-going and continuous improvement of the setting.
- Continue to develop approaches to learning, teaching, and assessment, including the way practitioners interact with children. This will help ensure that learning is at the appropriate level for all children.
- Continue to ensure that the progress of learning targets for all children, including those who require additional support, are clear and measurable. This will help them to identify the interventions which make the biggest difference for children

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

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Papdale Primary School Nursery Class

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>

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 setting has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Orkney Islands Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

Dr Noreen Phillips  
HM Inspector