

4 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dunscore Primary School. 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 school's work.

- The commitment of all staff, including clerical, support and facilities staff in creating a warm, caring and welcoming family ethos.
- Effective partnership working with the local community and associated secondary school.
- The headteacher's vision of a shared learning community model across the partnership school is embraced by staff, children, parents and the wider community. This collaborative working approach across the schools provides valuable opportunities to develop quality learning experiences for all children.
- The principal teacher's approaches to learning and teaching within her classroom.

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

- Improve assessment approaches ensuring that teacher's professional judgement accurately shows children's progress through Curriculum for Excellence levels.
- Raise children's attainment in literacy and numeracy. Ensure that all children experience high-quality learning and teaching. This includes checking that planned learning and interventions improves children's progress.
- Raise expectations of children as independent learners. Develop their skills in knowing their strengths and what they need to do to improve.
- Further develop the leadership skills of all staff working with children to increase the pace and impact of change within the school.

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 Dunscore Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/dumfries-and-galloway/5937027>.

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Dumfries and Galloway Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within twelve months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Dumfries and Galloway Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Elizabeth C Montgomery
 Managing Inspector