

13 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dalbeattie Primary School and Nursery Class. 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.

- Positive, caring relationships between staff and children in the school and nursery.
- Children are proud to be part of Dalbeattie Primary School. They are kind to each other, polite and keen to learn.

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

- Put in place rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school and nursery to ensure that children have better learning experiences.
- Across the school improve the quality and consistency of learning and teaching. Staff should provide more challenging tasks and activities so that children are more motivated, and attainment improves.
- Across the school and nursery, all staff need to improve approaches to assessment. They need to develop a clear assessment framework to help them gather reliable evidence about children's progress. They need to use data about children's progress better to help them to plan for children's learning effectively.
- In the nursery, staff need to improve the overall quality of learning and teaching. Staff should develop play environments which offer children stimulating learning experiences and ensure all children make very good progress in learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) 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 Dalbeattie Primary School and Nursery Class

| Quality indicators for the primary stages  | Evaluation          |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>  | <b>weak</b>         |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>  | <b>weak</b>         |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a> |                     |

| Quality indicators for the nursery class   | Evaluation          |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>  | <b>weak</b>         |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>weak</b>         |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Securing children's progress</b>  | <b>weak</b>         |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a> |                     |

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | Education Scotland](#)

### 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 one year 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.

Katharine Crombie  
HM Inspector