

21 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Thrumster Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELC). 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 and ELC's work.

- The strong sense of community created by the staff team who provide positive, respectful role models for children. The sense of 'family' ensures children feel safe and included.
- Confident, polite children, who are kind to each other and eager to learn.
- The ELC outdoor environment, which encourages children to engage in sustained, creative and imaginative play.

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

Across the school and ELC:

- As planned, review the school's vision, values and aims. Use this to continue to develop the curriculum, to ensure it reflects the unique context of the school and ELC and develops children's knowledge and skills across all areas of learning.
- Continue to develop rigour in self-evaluation approaches, including the effective tracking and monitoring of children's progress. In doing so, ensure consistent, high-quality learning and teaching, to raise the attainment and achievement of all.
- Continue to develop approaches to assessment and moderation. Ensure staff have a shared understanding of national standards and expectations, so that children make the best possible progress.

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 Thrumster Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre

| Quality indicators for the primary stages  | Evaluation          |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>  | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>  | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>good</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>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Securing children's progress</b>  | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>good</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:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4972>

### 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. The Highland Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Pamela Adamson  
HM Inspector