

27 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Castletown Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

Castletown Primary School nursery class was inspected by Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore, we have agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.

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

- Children, who are kind, polite and use the school vision and values well to encourage others to be the best they can be. They are enthusiastic about their school and their learning.
- The staff team, who have high expectations for all children and are committed to improving outcomes for children. They work together well as an effective team to provide children with supportive and motivating learning experiences.
- The headteacher and staff use data well to track closely children's attainment in literacy and numeracy. They identify quickly where children need further support with their learning and put effective interventions in place.
- Staff provide children with worthwhile opportunities to experience success through their wider achievements. This is helping children to be confident individuals and responsible citizens.

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

- The headteacher and all staff should protect time to regularly evaluate the work of the school. This will help them to implement change and improvement more systematically.
- The headteacher and staff should continue to develop approaches to planning and tracking children's learning over all curriculum areas. This will ensure children make the best possible progress across the curriculum.
- Staff should increase the opportunities for children to undertake planned leadership roles across the school. This will strengthen children's voice in leading school improvement.

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 Castletown Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and review | 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. 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.

Helen Mulholland
HM Inspector