

22 August 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Scalloway Primary School and early years class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

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

- Respectful children, happy in school and enjoying their learning.
- Collegiate and supportive staff team, well led by the headteacher, creating an enabling context to secure school improvement.
- An attractive and motivating learning environment in school. Staff willingness to involve parents and make very good use of the local community and culture to enrich learning, making it more relevant to children's lives.
- Impact of approaches to support children in overcoming barriers in their learning. The positive effect of the school's work with parents and outside agencies to support children and their families.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Shetland Islands Council:

- Across the school community and working with all stakeholders, develop a clear vision to direct the school's on-going work in securing further improvements.
- Further strengthen approaches to self-evaluation and the monitoring and tracking of children's progress across the early years and school. This will inform appropriate interventions and priorities for improvement at a whole school level. Increase the pace of change within the early years.
- Further develop integrated approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment.
- Continue to progress work in supporting greater staff confidence in assessing children's progress and in a shared understanding of standards.

**Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school.** You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school? for the primary stages and for the early years' class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*<sup>1</sup>. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Scalloway Primary School

### Primary stages

<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>

### Early years

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

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/shetland-islands/6103936>.

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<sup>1</sup> *How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

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

Donald Macleod  
HM Inspector

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