

16 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited New Abbey 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 headteacher successfully leads and promotes a culture of self-evaluation at New Abbey Primary School. The whole school community contributes to leadership of change and improvement. This is supporting improved outcomes for children and families.
- All children know and understand the school values and demonstrate them in all aspects of school life. They have a strong understanding of children's rights and enjoy nurturing and respectful relationships with each other and staff. This is contributing to a happy, inclusive and positive learning environment for all.
- The staff know all children well as individuals and track their progress carefully. This helps them to support children to make good progress in their learning. Children are benefitting from a wide range of approaches to raising attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- The school community works well together to ensure that potential barriers to learning and participation are addressed. This is helping to ensure equity of opportunity for all children.

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

- Staff should provide children with more opportunities to reflect on their individual learning targets and support them to identify their own next steps in learning.
- Teachers should continue to develop approaches to assessing children's progress in learning. Children need to have more opportunities to apply and demonstrate skills and knowledge across the curriculum and in a range of unfamiliar contexts.
- The headteacher and teachers should continue to work together to improve learning and teaching and support all children to make very good progress.

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 New Abbey Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. Dumfries and Galloway Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

M. A. Speirs
HM Inspector