

21 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Watten Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the acting headteacher and staff.

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

- Children participate successfully in a range of local activities and events. These achievements are building children's skills and deepening their connection with the local area, culture, language and community. Children's purposeful links with other rural schools helps them develop friendships, extend experiences and promotes confidence in moving to the secondary school.
- Staff, children and parents are supportive and caring to each other. Parents' support in raising funding helps ensure equity in learning. Pupil Support Assistants work very well with teachers and children.

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

- Continue to develop high-quality learning and teaching, which has a brisker pace and is more challenging. Teachers should continue to teach across all curriculum areas, for which longer-term, structured planning of learning should be used.
- Raise further attainment, particularly in writing and for those children who need a faster pace of learning. Teachers should make sharper use of assessment and data to accelerate children's progress.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Watten Primary School.

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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?

Within a year of the publication of this letter, we will ask The Highland Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve another inspection visit. The Highland Council will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with The Highland Council.

Joan Esson
HM Inspector