

12 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cawdor Primary School and Nursery Class. 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 and nursery's work.

- Children are motivated, ready and eager to learn. They are kind to each other, respectful and have a real sense of pride in their setting and school.
- Staff provide high-quality learning and teaching experiences for children. This includes opportunities through outdoor and digital learning activities.
- Robust tracking and monitoring processes, led by the highly-respected headteacher, which enable staff to provide early and effective interventions. This is leading to high levels of progress and attainment across the school.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to questioning with a specific focus on developing higher-order thinking skills.
- Develop approaches to tracking and monitoring children's developing skills and their attainment across more curricular areas.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) 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 Cawdor Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Securing children's progress	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: 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. 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.

Frances E. Graham
HM Inspector