

8 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Carrutherstown 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 shows clear leadership as the school takes forward its improvement agenda. Teachers and non-teaching colleagues liaise closely to support children in their learning and wellbeing. They work well together to deliver positive outcomes for children. Close liaison with a range of partners effectively supports the work of the school.
- Children are enthusiastic, motivated and engage well in learning. A strong sense of community within the school contributes to an inclusive and positive learning environment for children. Children identify strongly with their school. They relate well and are supportive of each other. Children mix well socially as they enjoy the school's varied outdoor spaces.
- The headteacher and staff track children's progress effectively and use this information to target additional support where required. As a result, most children are making good progress with their attainment.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to monitor and evaluate the work of the school. This includes widening the gathering of evidence to involve children, parents, and other stakeholders. The breadth and depth of this information can then support decision making at local school level and inform future school specific priorities.
- Promote a clearer understanding and use of the wellbeing indicators and link them to the refreshed school values. This will help children to understand themselves better and develop important life skills.
- Staff should continue to refine approaches to learning and teaching. Children would benefit from more opportunities to revisit their prior learning in new and relevant contexts. This will help children to consolidate and build on their skills and knowledge.
- The headteacher and staff should continue to develop the curriculum, in partnership with all stakeholders, to take account of the school's local context.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Carrutherstown Primary School

| Quality indicators   | Evaluation          |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>  | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>good</b>         |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>good</b>         |
| <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>  | <b>good</b>         |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a> |                     |

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:  
<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page//?id=1970>

### 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.

Charles Rooney  
 HM Inspector