

26 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Bell's Brae 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's work.

- The headteacher's clear, strategic leadership is supporting an inclusive and nurturing learning environment. Children are articulate and enthusiastic learners. They are proud of their school and are eager to learn.
- The school is developing an approach to teaching writing that is helping children to be more confident. They are motivated and engaged in writing for a range of purposes and audiences.
- In the nursery, practitioners have developed strong teamwork. They have made significant changes to the learning environment and to routines. This is helping to secure positive outcomes for children.

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

- Teachers should make sure that every child learns at a pace which is suitable for them. Across the school and nursery, children should be more involved in their learning and setting their own targets.
- Staff should use the unique context of the school to develop enriching and creative learning experiences across the curriculum. Children should experience all areas of the curriculum.
- Staff should continue to develop the use of data to identify gaps in children's learning. They should ensure that the right level of support is in place to meet the needs of every child.

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

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

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Inspection and Review | 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. 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.

Ann Floyd  
HM Inspector