

27 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Happyhansel 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 positive, nurturing relationships between children and staff across the school and nursery. These relationships support the health and wellbeing needs of all children.
- Children are friendly, polite and proud of their school, nursery and community. They are gaining a range of skills and attributes through their involvement in activities, events and clubs within the school and the local community.
- The headteacher and all staff work effectively to build links with the Parent Council, partners and the wider parent body. These partnerships are highly supportive and play an active role in supporting the work of the school and nursery.

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

- Improve approaches to tracking and measuring children's attainment and progress. The headteacher and teachers should agree on the robust assessment evidence they will gather to help them judge children's levels of attainment more accurately.
- All staff should continue to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment. Teachers should ensure that they plan progressive learning experiences in consistent ways to provide all children with the right level of support and challenge.
- The headteacher and teachers should ensure that learning targets for children who require additional support are more specific and measurable. This will help them to identify the interventions which make the biggest difference for children.
- The headteacher should ensure that approaches to quality assurance in the school and nursery are robust. This will support the headteacher and all staff to better identify the school's strengths and areas for development.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Happyhansel Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | 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.

Helen Mulholland
HM Inspector