

12 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Spean Bridge 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.

- Positive relationships across the school and nursery between children and staff and children and their peers which create a caring and positive ethos. This is leading to children who feel safe in school and are confident, enthusiastic and ready to learn.
- Children are provided with regular opportunities to use the extensive school grounds and the 'Discovery Zone' to enhance their learning and develop skills. This is motivating for children who use their attractive learning environments to extend their learning.

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

- Teachers and practitioners should continue to engage in relevant professional learning to improve approaches to learning and teaching. Staff should improve how they plan for learning to ensure that all children have high quality experiences across the school and nursery.
- Teachers should engage with the National Benchmarks to improve approaches to assessment and gathering robust evidence about children's progress. This will support staff to make more informed professional judgements about children's attainment and plan learning with the right level of challenge.
- All school staff should develop further their understanding of inclusion to support all children and use appropriate approaches to meet the needs of all learners.

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 Spean Bridge Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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	satisfactory
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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Teri McIntosh
HM Inspector