

10 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Newtown 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:

- Children are confident and proud of their school. They enjoy positive relationships across the school and nursery, supported by staff who are committed to inclusion and wellbeing.
- The approaches staff in the primary school take to develop children's reading skills and promote a culture of reading for enjoyment. They motivate children successfully in reading which is starting to impact positively on children's attainment.
- Staff have a common approach to sharing with children how they will be successful in their learning. As a result, children confidently identify their success and next steps.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from Scottish Borders Council:

- Senior leaders and staff should improve how data and other information are used to ensure all children make the best possible progress. This should support staff to identify which interventions are making the biggest differences.
- Staff should continue to improve the quality of learning and teaching across the school and nursery. In doing so, they should set high expectations, continue to raise standards and improve attainment further.
- Staff should increase opportunities for children to lead their own learning as well as wider aspects of the work of the school.

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.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Newtown Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available in 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 [Newtown Primary School web page](#).

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. Scottish Borders Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Jennifer Wadley
HM Inspector