

17 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited North Walls Community 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.

- Confident children who are safe, included and happy. They are supportive of each other and proud of their school and nursery.
- All staff work well as a team. Led effectively by the headteacher, they have developed consistent and well-considered learning and teaching approaches.
- Children across the school and nursery learn in stimulating and engaging environments. Children are motivated by relevant and meaningful learning experiences.
- Practitioners in the nursery use skilled questioning and high-quality interactions to support children to make very good progress in their learning.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from Orkney Islands Council.

- Staff in the school and nursery should continue to develop opportunities for children to take responsibility for their own learning. This should help children to understand better their progress and have a meaningful voice in choices which affect their learning.
- Staff in the school should build on their approaches to assessing children's progress in learning. This should include the headteacher and staff continuing to develop approaches to reaching a shared understanding of standards about children's attainment across the curriculum.

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 North Walls Community School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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	very good
Securing children's progress	very good
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. Orkney Islands Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Simon Gallon
HM Inspector