

25 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sanquhar Primary School. 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 who are polite, articulate and keen to learn. They share warm and respectful relationships with each other and all staff. There is an inclusive ethos across the school and learning centre.
- Children in P5-7 make effective use of digital technology to support their learning across the curriculum.
- Staff work well in partnership with members of the local community. Children's learning is enhanced by engaging with the wider community to learn about local history and culture.

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

- The headteacher, with support from the local authority, should ensure they prioritise school improvement based on robust self-evaluation to improve the pace of change. Senior leaders and staff should ensure there are clear action plans with manageable, achievable targets for key areas of school improvement.
- The headteacher should work with all staff to develop more rigorous approaches to monitoring the quality of learning, teaching and assessment to ensure this is of a consistently high quality across the school and learning centre.
- Staff should improve approaches to planning across the curriculum to ensure all children in the school and learning centre receive depth, breadth and progression in their learning. They should improve approaches to planning for children who require additional support with their learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Sanquhar Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Find an inspection report | 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 Dumfries and Galloway Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Dumfries and Galloway 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.

Katharine Crombie
HM Inspector