

26 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sound 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 highly respected headteacher provides very effective leadership to the staff team in the school and nursery. She is supported very well by senior leaders and staff. Together they evidence well the strong impact of school improvement work. This is resulting in highly positive experiences and outcomes for children.
- In the school and nursery, all staff create a very nurturing and inclusive environment. They have caring relationships with children. This is supporting children to be happy, enthusiastic to learn and to engage very well in learning.
- In the school, senior leaders use robust information about children's learning and tracking information very well to provide effective support for children. This is helping children to achieve well across literacy and numeracy and health and wellbeing.
- In the school and nursery, staff make very good use of the local environment to support learning. They promote effectively Shetland's heritage and culture.

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

- In the school, staff should provide increased challenge during lessons for a minority of children. This will help to ensure all children make the best possible progress.
- In the nursery, senior leaders should develop leadership opportunities for practitioners and children to allow them to contribute more fully to the work of the nursery.
- In the nursery, staff should develop further approaches to planning and tracking children's learning to improve children's experiences and outcomes.

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 Sound Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Securing children's progress	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: [Sound Primary School | Inspection Report | 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.

Nicola Drew
HM Inspector