

18 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of HM Inspectors from Education Scotland visited Shawhead 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.

- Polite, hard-working children who are proud of their school and their achievements. Children work well together and are able to talk knowledgeably about their learning. Almost all show an eagerness to learn and an enjoyment of the opportunities they have, for example for outdoor learning.
- Skilful leadership at all levels in the school, driving school improvement. With strong leadership from the headteacher, staff work well as a team and are reflective, creative and resourceful in identifying ways of improving all children's learning, attainment and achievement.
- The high quality programmes of support provided for children requiring additional support for learning. Staff are skilled at identifying and addressing children's needs, and work well with partners to remove barriers to children's learning.

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

- The school should explore how to give children more opportunities, in classroom contexts, to lead significant aspects of their learning, building on the successful approaches in Pupil Voice groups and in outdoor learning.
- Staff should proceed with their plans to review the school's progression frameworks, building on teachers' developing skills in using curriculum benchmarks. The school should continue to monitor how well its curriculum meets children's entitlement to a broad general education, including the contribution of interdisciplinary learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Shawhead Primary School

Quality indicators	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	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/dumfries-and-galloway/5930421>

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

Bill Geddes
 HM Inspector