

29 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Doonfoot Primary School and Early Years Centre (EYC). 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 positive, inclusive and caring ethos that is a strong feature across the whole school community. This results in confident, respectful and happy children who feel included and proud of their school and setting. Children demonstrate the school values in everyday actions and develop their leadership skills very well through a wide variety of successful groups, clubs and committees.
- The strong and caring leadership of the headteacher. She has identified accurately key priorities, empowers the whole school community and is managing the pace of change very well. The headteacher is aspirational for all children and has a clear, ambitious vision for the school.
- Staff who make very effective use of the local community, partnerships and real-life contexts for learning. This supports children to be motivated and included in the school's vision, 'education without walls'.
- The highly effective teamwork and leadership amongst staff across the school community. All staff are keen to develop their individual and collective skills and knowledge to help improve children's experiences.
- The leadership of the depute manager in the Early Years Centre and the work of the skilled practitioners. This is ensuring children in the EYC experience high-quality early learning and childcare and make very effective progress with their learning.

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

- Staff should continue to ensure learning and teaching is at the correct pace and set at the right level of difficulty. Staff should continue to extend children's engagement and independence in their learning.
- Senior leaders and staff should raise attainment further for all children across all subject areas. They should ensure children make better progress and build effectively on what they already know.

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 Doonfoot Primary School and Early Years Centre

| Quality indicators for the primary stages  | Evaluation       |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>good</b>      |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>  | <b>good</b>      |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a> |                  |

| Quality indicators for the Early Years Centre  | Evaluation       |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Securing children's progress</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a> |                  |

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Doonfoot 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. South Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Louise Phillips  
HM Inspector