

16 May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In February, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Evie Community School and nursery class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The headteacher who is responsive and sensitive to the support needs of all children. She is supported by a hard-working and positive staff team who work well together to improve aspects of the work of the school.
- Support staff, visiting staff, parents and others who make valuable contributions to the positive school environment and welcoming ethos.
- Children in the primary classes who are happy, friendly, polite and well-behaved and who benefit from learning in a caring, nurturing environment.
- Children in the nursery who are motivated, engaged and thriving on the high quality interactions and experiences provided by effective, skilled practitioners. Staff working in the nursery place a strong and successful emphasis on children's wellbeing and in providing an environment where children confidently can lead their own learning.

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

- Develop more effective strategic leadership to drive forwards key priorities for school improvement and implement Curriculum for Excellence at an increased pace. Improve approaches to self-evaluation to ensure the work of the school and the nursery is being effectively monitored and leads to continuous improvement.
- Within the school, encourage children to take more responsibility for their own learning and aspects of school life.
- Improve arrangements for planning, assessment and moderation including tracking children's progress in learning and achievement, ensuring that staff set high expectations and that all children in the nursery and school are appropriately challenged.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*¹. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland’s evaluations for Evie Community School

Primary stages

Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good

Nursery class

Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children’s progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at

<https://education.gov.scot/reports/orkney-islands/6002927>

¹ *How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

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. We will ask Orkney Islands Council to provide the Area Lead Officer with a written report on how the school has continued to improve its work within one year of the publication of this report. 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.

Marion Burns
HM Inspector

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