

17 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sandwick Junior High School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers, children, and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- Staff across the school are caring and nurturing in their interactions with children and young people. They have created a positive and welcoming learning environment for children, young people and their families.
- A range of partners, including health professionals, are involved in working effectively with staff to meet the needs of pupils who require additional support with their learning. As a result, they are included well in the life and work of the school. Partners also support all children and young people to achieve widely, in the school and local community.

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

- Clear, focused leadership needs to be provided to support continuous improvement in the school and early learning centre. Senior leaders, middle leaders and staff need to develop a shared understanding about key improvement priorities and work together to ensure these are taken forward in a timely manner.
- As a matter of priority, the school needs to improve the structure of the curriculum in the broad general education. Particular emphasis should be placed on developing a broad and progressive curriculum at the primary stages.
- Approaches to learning, teaching and assessment need to be improved across the school. This should enable all children and young people to experience and benefit from learning, teaching and assessment which is of a higher quality.
- The school needs to improve its approaches for checking the progress of children across the school. This will help teachers to build on children and young people's prior learning more effectively, and raise attainment. It will also help children and young people to understand their learning more effectively.

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 Sandwich Junior High School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the school	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/shetland-islands/6103839>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school and nursery class need additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Shetland Islands Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within nine months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Shetland Islands 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.

Celia McArthur
HM Inspector