

14 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Duthus School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers, children, young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- Staff's understanding of children and young people and their needs.
- The positive relationships between children and young people and staff.
- New approaches to learning and teaching which are engaging children and young people in their learning better.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from The Highland Council.

- Continue to improve learning and teaching.
- Improve assessment and provide reliable data which demonstrates that children and young people are making progress with their learning.
- Raise the attainment for all and ensure children and young people receive accreditation for their achievement and skills.
- Increase the involvement of parents, children and young people and partners in the work of the school and develop a shared understanding of wellbeing.
- Work together to create leadership opportunities for staff.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 St Duthus School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland 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.

Ken McAra
HM Inspector