

3 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sanday Community 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.

- Senior leaders and staff have created an environment where children and young people feel cared for and included well as part of the school community. As a result, children and young people have the confidence to 'have a go' in their everyday learning.
- Teaching and non-teaching staff who collaborate regularly and provide relentless wrap-around support to children and young people. All staff are aware of how their roles complement each other's skills and experience. They are caring and strive to achieve the very best for each child and young person.
- Strong, close links across the island community which support children and young people to learn and develop. Together the school, community and partners ensure the Sanday Community School continues to strengthen its position as the heart, soul and future of their island community.

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

- Senior leaders are aware of the need to continue to improve approaches to self-evaluation. In addition, establish a shared responsibility for all staff to lead aspects of school improvement.
- Continue to raise expectations of learners attainment and achievements. Develop further approaches to the quality of learning and teaching reflecting the nature of the school catering for children and young people from three to sixteen.

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 Sanday Community School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the school	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
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	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
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/orkney-islands/6003230>

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. 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.

Elizabeth C Montgomery
HM Inspector