

21 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Newlands Primary School. 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 staff team are nurturing, caring and supportive of each other and of children. This promotes a strong sense of teamwork across the whole school community.
- The polite, respectful children who are proud of their school and participate well with their learning. They are keen to contribute to their school through their involvement in pupil parliament leadership groups.
- The effective partnership working that enhances the work of the school to meet the wellbeing needs of all children.

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

- Strengthen approaches to evaluating the work of the school to ensure it accurately informs the leadership of change and improvement.
- Develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching. This should improve the consistency of learning and teaching across the school and ensure that all children benefit from high quality learning experiences.
- Improve approaches to assessment and moderation to ensure that planned learning is better matched to the needs of all children.
- Raise attainment in literacy and numeracy, particularly in writing.

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 Newlands Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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:
[Newlands Primary School | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

We will ask Scottish Borders Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within one year of the publication of this letter. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve another inspection visit. We will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with Scottish Borders Council.

Pamela Adamson
HM Inspector