

10 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Urafirth Primary School and Early Years. 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.

- In the school and nursery, children are respectful, kind and welcoming. They are articulate, motivated to learn and enjoy talking about their learning.
- Across the school and nursery, the headteacher demonstrates effective leadership. She is supported well by the staff team. Together, they provide an inclusive, nurturing and inviting learning environment which is helping all children to achieve success in learning.
- Staff in the school and nursery engage in ongoing high-quality professional learning. This is helping them to reflect on and develop their practice, leading to improvements in children's experiences and outcomes.

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

- In the school, staff should continue to develop high-quality approaches to learning and teaching to ensure all children make the best possible progress. This should include giving children more opportunities to lead their own learning.
- In the school, staff should support children to understand, record and share the skills they are developing through learning experiences and achievements.
- In the nursery, staff should provide children with further challenge to extend and sustain children's interests in learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Urafirth Primary School and Early Years

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	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:

[Urafirth Primary School | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

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. Shetland Islands Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Nicola Drew
HM Inspector