

5 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ayton 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 very welcoming children and staff who make Ayton Primary School a happy place to learn. Caring and nurturing relationships between all staff and children ensure children feel safe and engage well in learning.
- The headteacher provides strong leadership for the school community. She is driving forward school improvements well. In her short time in post, the positive impact on children's experiences and outcomes is evident.
- The recent improvements in digital learning approaches which are leading to children using technology effectively to enhance and extend their learning.
- The positive steps in raising attainment of children across the school, particularly in reading, listening and talking and numeracy.

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

- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to improve high quality learning and teaching across the school. This should include increased opportunities for children to lead and review their learning.
- Develop a robust strategic overview of children's additional support needs across the school. This will ensure all staff are confident in the range of supports used in Ayton Primary School to meet learner's needs. This will help senior leaders to evidence more clearly the positive impact of the support children receive.
- Senior leaders need to improve the recording and tracking of data and measure and close gaps in children's 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? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Ayton Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | 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. Scottish Borders 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