

4 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cunningsburgh Primary School and Nursery Class. 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 stability provided by the headteacher's leadership. She has promoted the creation of a collaborative culture across the school and nursery class to support continuous improvement.
- Highly motivated, articulate and polite children, who display a thirst for learning.
- Positive and nurturing relationships between all staff and children, which are founded on a climate of mutual respect and a strong belief in the worth of every individual.
- The celebration by all members of the school community of the importance of the heritage of the Shetland Islands. The school makes a highly valued contribution to the wider local community and culture.

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

- Strengthen the use of self-evaluation in the school and in particular in the nursery class, to monitor more closely the impact of the school's work on outcomes for children. This will support the school in planning for future improvements in a more strategic and focused way and accelerate the pace of change.
- Staff should continue working towards achieving consistency of high expectations across the school and nursery. This will support children to experience the challenge they require.
- Staff should continue to develop learning pathways in literacy and numeracy to ensure that children make the best possible progress. Continue to develop the way in which the school tracks children's progress in literacy and numeracy.

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 Cunningsburgh Primary School

Quality indicators primary stages	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 nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
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 will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/shetland-islands/6100422>.

What happens next?

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

Jacqueline Gallagher
HM Inspector