

27 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Papdale 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.

- Children are polite, respectful and very proud of their school. They take part in learning activities with enthusiasm and are eager to contribute their ideas to improve their school.
- Children benefit from positive and mutually respectful relationships with staff. This underpins the supportive climate for learning where children feel valued, known as individuals, and nurtured.
- Staff use effective approaches to improve children's literacy skills. These are improving attainment in literacy outcomes for children.

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

- Senior leaders should continue to develop their approaches to evaluating and improving the work of the school. They should involve all members of the school community more regularly in improving the work of the school.
- Teachers should continue to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment. This will help to ensure that children experience high-quality learning and teaching across the school.
- Staff should develop a shared language of wellbeing to support children more consistently to discuss and improve their wellbeing.
- Staff should develop children's understanding of the importance of equality, valuing diversity and difference in society, and challenging discrimination. This will help children develop respect and understanding for others.

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 Papdale Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
[Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. 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.

Graham Parry
 HM Inspector