

27 August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Duns Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the depute headteachers and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Across the school and nursery, staff work very well together to provide children with a happy and purposeful learning environment. Children are developing a good understanding of the importance of reflecting the values of 'respectful, responsible and resilient' as they work and play together.
- Practitioners in the nursery provide a nurturing environment which supports children's wellbeing. Outdoor learning, and experiences beyond the nursery, provide exciting opportunities for children to learn and work together well.
- Teachers are well organised and meet the needs of children well. They have a good shared understanding of the requirements for effective learning and teaching. As a result, learning and teaching across classes is of a consistently high quality.
- Children are encouraged and supported to do their best. They are making good progress in their learning and attaining well in literacy and numeracy.

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

- The ongoing gathering and analysis of evidence needs to better inform the improvements required in the work of the school and nursery. This is to ensure there can be a clear focus on those aspects which will make the biggest difference to outcomes for children.
- An overview of planned learning is needed at the primary stages to ensure that children receive their full entitlement to a broad curriculum. Children would benefit from more opportunities to transfer and consolidate their learning in different contexts.
- Further, refine approaches to monitoring children's progress in their learning. This should provide timely information to plan learning which will continue to raise attainment for all children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Duns Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</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>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	very good

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and three recommendations. From these, two recommendations have been met. Outstanding issues relating to personal planning are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and one recommendation.

#### Recommendation

- To ensure that children's care and support needs are met the service should further develop a recording system to hold information about children in one place. This information should include strategies for support, which are in place, and the outcomes of that support. Information held in personal plans should be updated at least once every six months to ensure it is accurate and relevant. This is consistent with Health and Social Care Standard 1.15 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as my care plan) is right for me.'

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/scottish-borders/5645824>

#### 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.

Carol McDonald  
HM Inspector

Karen Robertson  
Care Inspector