

27 August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Castle Douglas 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 leadership and direction of the senior leadership team who are developing successfully a culture of shared leadership and professional learning which is having a positive impact on teaching and learning across the school.
- Positive relationships of children and staff across the school community from Nursery to Primary 7. This creates a calm and purposeful learning environment where children are engaged fully in their learning.
- The teamwork and skill of the learning centre staff who work collaboratively with parents, carers, partners, and teachers. Together, they provide effective support for children to include them predominantly in a mainstream setting.
- The well-designed curriculum which reflects clearly the local context and focuses well on skills development. Across the school, staff plan meaningful and relevant learning experiences for children which motivates and engages them in their learning.

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

- Continue to raise attainment for all children and develop further assessment and moderation approaches.
- Develop further approaches to ensure robust tracking and monitoring of children's progress in their learning across all curriculum areas and in wider achievement.
- Continue to develop the school's systems for self-evaluation to help identify key improvement priorities which support the school's context.

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 Castle Douglas Primary School and Nursery Class

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	

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

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	very 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 two recommendations. From these, both recommendations have been met. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and one recommendation.

Recommendations

The service manager should monitor the procedures for the management of children's medication to incorporate best practice. Management and staff should refer to the Care Inspectorate good practice guidance - Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services (2014).

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that as a child: "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice." (HSCS 4.11)

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/dumfries-and-galloway/5915422>

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

John Reilly
HM Inspector

Jacque Fee
Care Inspector