17 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Whiteness 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 enthusiastic, happy and articulate children who are very proud of their school and nursery. They feel included, valued and respected.
- The very effective ethos of teamwork and positive relationships across the school and nursery. The staff team work very well together to reflect on and improve learning and teaching. This is leading to consistently high-quality experiences both indoors and outdoors for children.
- The highly effective headteacher who empowers staff, children, community partners and families to work for the benefit of the children. This results in children having a strong sense of belonging and their successes being valued.
- The whole staff team's very effective approaches to meeting the needs of children who require additional support in their learning. They are attaining well and making very good progress in their learning.

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

- In the nursery, involve children and parents more fully in planning next steps in learning.
- At the primary stages, continue to raise attainment in writing.

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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 Whiteness Primary School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**very good**
Raising attainment and achievement	**very 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	**very good**
Securing children's progress	**very good**
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare. The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	**very good**
1.1 Nurturing care and support	**very good**
1.3 Play and learning	**very good**
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	**very good**
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	**very good**

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no areas for improvement were made.

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

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

Anne Graham
HM Inspector

Lorraine Grant
Care Inspector

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