



**ORKNEY**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

**Item: 8**

**Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 11 September 2024.**

**Education Scotland Inspection – Papa Westray Community School.**

**Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.**

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## **1. Overview**

- 1.1.** In April 2024, Education Scotland undertook a full model inspection of Papa Westray Community School and Nursery Class.
- 1.2.** The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:
- The effective direction and leadership of the acting headteacher and nursery lead practitioner. Their clear vision and drive have secured positive improvement in the work of the school and nursery.
  - The school and nursery's authentic connection to the island environment, heritage and culture. Staff foster positive partnerships with the community and make effective use of the unique setting to provide rich learning experiences for children.
  - The nurturing and caring ethos. The wellbeing of children is of high importance to all staff across school and nursery and sits at the centre of their work. As a result, children are thriving.
  - The skilful interactions of nursery staff with each individual child. They offer time and space in a carefully considered way which supports children to develop their ideas and lead their own learning.
- 1.3.** The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Headteacher, the Service Manager (Primary Education) and the Operational Manager for Early Learning and Childcare:
- Continue to develop approaches to measure and demonstrate the impact of improvement work. The information gained should be used to support strategic decision making and inform future priorities across the school and nursery.
  - Continue to develop the curriculum. Children will benefit from building their skills and knowledge in deliberately planned, progressive ways.
  - Continue to develop and embed high-quality teaching and learning approaches in the primary class. This should include children taking further ownership of their learning in meaningful ways.

- 1.4.** The evaluations given to the quality indicators for the primary school are as follows:
- Leadership of change – good.
  - Learning, Teaching and Assessment – good.
  - Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion – good.
  - Raising attainment and achievement – good.
- 1.5.** The evaluations given to the quality indicators for the nursery class are as follows:
- Leadership of change – good.
  - Learning, Teaching and Assessment – very good.
  - Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion – very good.
  - Raising attainment and achievement – very good.
- 1.6.** HM Inspectors are confident in the school’s capacity to continue to improve and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.
- 1.7.** The areas for improvement, outlined above, will be taken forward by the school and nursery as part of the school improvement planning process and will feature on the plan for Papa Westray Community School and Nursery Class over the next few years to ensure that they are embedded in practice.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1.** It is recommended that members of the Committee:
- i. Scrutinise the inspection letter in respect of Papa Westray Community School and Nursery Class, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, issued by Education Scotland on 25 June 2024, in order to obtain assurance.

### **For Further Information please contact:**

Morag Miller, Service Manager (Primary Education), Extension 2438, email:

[morag.miller@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:morag.miller@orkney.gov.uk).

Catherine Diamond, Service Manager (Early Learning and Childcare), Extension 3220,

email: [catherine.diamond@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk](mailto:catherine.diamond@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk).

## Implications of Report

1. **Financial** – Not applicable.
2. **Legal** – Not applicable.
3. **Corporate Governance** – Not applicable
4. **Human Resources** – Not applicable.
5. **Equalities** – Equality Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
6. **Island Communities Impact** – Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
  - Growing our economy.
  - Strengthening our Communities.
  - Developing our Infrastructure.
  - Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
  - Cost of Living.
  - Sustainable Development.
  - Local Equality.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk** – Not applicable.
10. **Risk** – Not applicable.
11. **Procurement** – Not applicable.
12. **Health and Safety** – Not applicable.
13. **Property and Assets** – Not applicable.
14. **Information Technology** – Not applicable.
15. **Cost of Living** – Not applicable.

## List of Background Papers

None

## Appendix

Appendix 1 – Letter from Education Scotland.

25 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Papa Westray Community 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 effective direction and leadership of the acting headteacher and nursery lead practitioner. Their clear vision and drive have secured positive improvement in the work of the school and nursery.
- The school and nursery's authentic connection to the island environment, heritage and culture. Staff foster positive partnerships with the community and make effective use of the unique setting to provide rich learning experiences for children.
- The nurturing and caring ethos. The wellbeing of children is of high importance to all staff across school and nursery and sits at the centre of their work. As a result, children are thriving.
- The skilful interactions of nursery staff with each individual child. They offer time and space in a carefully considered way which supports children to develop their ideas and lead their own learning.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to measure and demonstrate the impact of improvement work. The information gained should be used to support strategic decision making and inform future priorities across the school and nursery.
- Continue to develop the curriculum. Children will benefit from building their skills and knowledge in deliberately planned, progressive ways.
- Continue to develop and embed high-quality teaching and learning approaches in the primary class. This should include children taking further ownership of their learning in meaningful ways.

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 Papa Westray Community 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>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</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>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>very 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>	

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

[Papa Westray Community School | Inspection Report | 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.

Lisa Marie McDonnell  
HM Inspector