



**Item: 7**

**Education, Communities and Housing Committee: 3 June 2026.**

**Education Scotland Inspection – Stronsay Junior High School.**

**Report by Director of Education, Communities and Housing.**

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## **1. Overview**

- 1.1. This report presents Education Scotland’s letter on the inspection of Stronsay Junior High School, for members’ information.
- 1.2. In March 2026, Education Scotland undertook a full inspection of Stronsay Junior High School.
- 1.3. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school’s work:
  - Staff foster positive relationships with children and young people. They know learners as individuals very well. There is a strong sense of community across the school. Children and young people are eager to learn and demonstrate emotional maturity.
  - The headteacher provides caring and compassionate leadership. She is highly respected by the school community. She encourages staff to prioritise learner’s wellbeing effectively.
  - Staff adopt a proactive approach to identifying and fostering partnership working. They work well with a range of partners to provide children and young people with positive learning opportunities, achievements and to support their health and wellbeing.
  - The headteacher monitors children and young people’s progress in learning well, particularly in relation to literacy and numeracy. This helps staff to identify those who need further support and to plan interventions to raise attainment. As a result, children and young people’s attainment over time is positive.
- 1.4. The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed the Headteacher and the Head of Education:

- The headteacher should continue to develop the role of staff, children and young people, parents and partners in leading school improvement.
- Staff should continue to work together to improve the consistency and quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the school. They should focus on providing children and young people with greater challenge through rich, engaging learning opportunities.
- The extended leadership team and staff should improve their approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment. They should ensure plans demonstrate how learning aligns with national standards and how it provides progression in learning across all curricular areas.  
Staff should continue to develop their approaches to target setting with children and young people, including when planning for those requiring additional support with their learning.

1.5. The evaluations given to the quality indicators for the school are as follows:

- Leadership of change – good.
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment – satisfactory.
- Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion – good.
- Raising attainment and achievement – good.

1.6. HM Inspectors are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and therefore will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

1.7. The areas for improvement, outlined above, will be taken forward by the school, supported by the Education Service.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:

- Note the inspection letter in respect of Stronsay Junior High School, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, issued by Education Scotland on 12 May 2026.

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

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### **Implications of Report**

1. **Financial** – Not applicable.
2. **Legal** – Not applicable.
3. **Corporate Governance** – Not applicable.
4. **Human Resources** – Not applicable.
5. **Equalities** – An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
6. **Island Communities Impact** – An 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.
  - Improving Population Health.
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 – Inspection Letter from Education Scotland.

12 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Stronsay Junior High 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.

- Staff foster positive relationships with children and young people. They know learners as individuals very well. There is a strong sense of community across the school. Children and young people are eager to learn and demonstrate emotional maturity.
- The headteacher provides caring and compassionate leadership. She is highly respected by the school community. She encourages staff to prioritise learner's wellbeing effectively.
- Staff adopt a proactive approach to identifying and fostering partnership working. They work well with a range of partners to provide children and young people with positive learning opportunities, achievements and to support their health and wellbeing.
- The headteacher monitors children and young people's progress in learning well, particularly in relation to literacy and numeracy. This helps staff to identify those who need further support and to plan interventions to raise attainment. As a result, children and young people's attainment over time is positive.

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

- The headteacher should continue to develop the role of staff, children and young people, parents and partners in leading school improvement.
- Staff should continue to work together to improve the consistency and quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the school. They should focus on providing children and young people with greater challenge through rich, engaging learning opportunities.
- The extended leadership team and staff should improve their approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment. They should ensure plans demonstrate how learning aligns with national standards and how it provides progression in learning across all curricular areas.
- Staff should continue to develop their approaches to target setting with children and young people, including when planning for those requiring additional support with their learning.



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 HMIE's evaluations for Stronsay Junior High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school (4th edition) Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

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

[Stronsay Junior High School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland