

23 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate visited Rousay 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 welcoming environment, resulting in confident, friendly children, who are keen to learn and contribute to the school and wider community.
- The strong commitment to continuous improvement in the nursery, leading to the successful introduction of the provision for two year olds.
- Children's engagement and enjoyment of early literacy skills in the nursery.
- The effective support provided to children when joining the school, and as they move on to secondary, enabling them to settle quickly and manage these transitions.

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

- Continue with plans to develop approaches to self-evaluation, ensuring the involvement of the whole school community and an increased pace of change.
- Increase children's ownership and independence in learning, developing their understanding of themselves as a learner.
- Continue to develop the curriculum in line with national guidelines, taking due account of the school's unique context and the islands it serves.
- Through the use of effective planning, tracking and monitoring, improve levels of attainment across the school.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Rousay Community School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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 gradings for the nursery class

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

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

More detailed summarised inspection findings will be available from <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/orkney-islands> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

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.

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Managing Inspector

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Care Inspector