

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

10 December 2019

**Education & Learning Directorate
Education Services**

122-124 Irish Street

Dumfries

DG1 2PB

To:

**All Parents and Carers of Pupils at
Shawhead Primary School**

Any enquiries please contact

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Dear Parent/Carer

**LETTER REPORTING PROGRESS SINCE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT
(PUBLISHED 30 NOVEMBER 2010)**

Shawhead Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in November 2018. The inspection focussed on the quality of the school's learning, teaching and assessment and children's attainment and achievements.

As part of the quality reporting arrangements of Education and Learning Directorate, Dumfries and Galloway Council, I am writing to inform you of the progress made by Shawhead Primary School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in December 2018. The report highlighted two main aspects for development.

This letter sets out actions taken by the school in addressing these points.

The school should explore how to give children more opportunities, in classroom context, to lead significant aspects of their learning, building on the successful approaches in Pupil Voice groups and in outdoor learning.

Staff have continued to develop outdoor learning at Shawhead, using the outdoors to inspire art, literacy, numeracy and education for sustainability. Collaborative learning approaches have been further developed in the classroom in spelling, reading and through problem solving activities. Early indications show an improvement in engagement, confidence and attainment in classroom assessments for almost all learners. Pupils in the Health Officers' group have taken a role in leading learning by running one of our Physical Education (PE) sessions each week.

Staff have engaged in professional reading and dialogue about play based learning and pupil-led learning in school and with colleagues in our region and beyond. Plans have been created to develop independent learning sessions – ‘Genius Hour’ – in January 2020. This trial will be carefully monitored in terms of pupil engagement, improved skills for learning and raised attainment.

Staff should proceed with their plans to review the school’s progression frameworks, building on teachers’ developing skills in using curriculum benchmarks. The school should continue to monitor how well its curriculum meets children’s entitlement to a broad general education, including the contribution of interdisciplinary learning.

To address this aspect, staff have reviewed the three-year programme of Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL), adapting it where necessary. Staff are now in the process of including curriculum benchmarks in the planning of IDL as they work through the session. They are researching and reviewing examples of progression frameworks from colleagues in cluster schools, and from schools within Dumfries and Galloway and beyond; for example, Roslin Primary School to help create an engaging curriculum that supports independent learning for pupils. This is an ongoing process with assessments being developed alongside planning throughout the year; for example, the recent project in Environmental Art and Energy includes Curriculum for Excellence benchmarks and assessment at the outset. Shawhead School demonstrates good capacity for future improvement. This is the result of the hard work and commitment of the Headteacher, staff and children. I wish to congratulate all within the school community on their progress over the last year.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Brydson
Head of Education (Quality & Curriculum) and Chief Education Officer