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**Date:** 17 August 2018

**To:**

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

**Children, Young People & Lifelong  
Learning**

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Any enquiries please contact

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Dear Parent / Carer

## **LETTER REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF DUNCOW PRIMARY SCHOOL SINCE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT OF 29 AUGUST 2017**

Duncow Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in June 2017. The inspection focussed on leadership of change, learning, teaching and assessment, ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion and children's attainment and achievement.

As part of the quality reporting arrangements of Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning, Dumfries and Galloway Council, I am writing to inform you of the progress made by Duncow Primary School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in August 2017. The report highlighted three main aspects for development. This letter sets out actions taken by the school in addressing these points.

**Strengthen strategic leadership and ensure staff, parents, partners and children are fully involved in evaluating the work of the school to support continuous improvement.**

The school's vision, values and aims were revisited with pupils, staff, parents and partners such as Active Schools, Wallace Hall Secondary, Kirkmahoe Community Council and the Community Police Officer. This work was very reflective and productive and has led to a deeper understanding of the school's shared values, ethos and a joint determination to "work together to achieve excellence". This motto was reaffirmed by the school community in the first term of this session.

Opportunities are ongoing for parents to find out how their children are taught. Maths, reading and phonics have been targeted through Parent Workshops. Using feedback from these sessions, the school plans to tailor further workshops to the needs and interests of parents and learners. The Headteacher has met with Parent Council Chairs from the Partnership schools to discuss priorities for improvement and planning for use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

Information on school priorities will be shared with parents and pupils in August and PEF planning shared with Parent Councils in the new session. Parent workshops will continue to inform and involve the wider parent forum in the life and work of the school, including how parents can support their child's learning.

**Develop children's awareness of their skills and provide further opportunities for them to lead learning and be involved in school improvement.**

Learning conversations have developed and are now more focused on enabling learners to identify their strengths and next steps for improvement. Children are now much more involved in this process and are taking ownership of their targets in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

Children across the school are enjoying greater responsibility for leading, planning and participating in school improvements through established groups such as the Confidence Club, Gardening Group, Creative Club and Inspirational Club.

Teachers have benefited from moderation opportunities across the school, the wider partnership and cluster, and are using the published Education Scotland Benchmarks to support their professional judgements in children's progress within literacy and numeracy. This will continue to be a focus as the school updates planning and tracking systems over the next school year.

Ongoing collaboration across the partnership will continue next session to ensure robust evaluations of children's progress and identification of next steps in improvement.

**Review and further develop the school's approaches to health and wellbeing. This should include an increased focus on children's rights and wellbeing which is used to ensure all children's needs are met.**

Work across the partnership Health & Wellbeing Programme has been updated to support children's experiences and ongoing development. This updated programme now more closely reflects the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence and aligns to the national benchmarks. Over the course of this session, staff and children from Duncow Primary School have established links with local community groups, participated in a number of outdoor learning visits and created links with a number of curriculum partners.

Ongoing learning in health and wellbeing is focusing on children's rights and responsibilities and this is empowering them to have a voice in their school and the wider community. This work will continue and will support Duncow Primary School in developing their status as a Rights Respecting School.

The school acknowledges the positive engagement of pupils, parents, staff and the wider school community as it has worked to address the points of action. Duncow Primary 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