

13 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Hottsbridge Primary 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.

- Children who are polite, friendly and well behaved. They work well together at all times.
- The high quality of relationships across the school community. Children, parents and all staff share mutual respect and care for one another.
- The encouraging start teachers have made to helping children learn about their strengths and areas for development.

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

- Review approaches to planning and assessing children's learning. This includes ensuring lessons and activities are sufficiently challenging and well-matched to children's needs.
- The headteacher should work with staff to provide clearer direction on how to show the progress children make in their learning. She should develop more effective approaches to check children's progress and achievement to raise attainment in all areas of their learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Education Scotland's evaluations for Hottsbridge Primary School

| Quality indicators | Evaluation |
|--|---------------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | satisfactory |
| Raising attainment and achievement | satisfactory |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale | |

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

We will ask Dumfries and Galloway Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within one year of the publication of this letter. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve another inspection visit. Dumfries and Galloway Council will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Rosalind J Webster
HM Inspector