



Item: 8

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 10 September 2025.

Education Scotland – St Andrews Primary School.

Report by Director of Education, Communities and Housing.

1. Overview

- 1.1. In May 2025, Education Scotland undertook an inspection of St Andrews Primary School. This was a short model inspection.
- 1.2. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:
 - The welcoming inclusive ethos where the school values are evident in the positive relationships across the school. Children make positive contributions to the work and life of the school and to the creative heritage of their community.
 - The effective approaches to improving learning and teaching across the school. The headteacher has worked very well with staff to improve the quality and consistency of children's learning experiences at all stages.
 - The whole school approach to improving attainment in writing. Children are highly motivated and enjoy writing. There is clear evidence of improved outcomes for children across the school.
- 1.3. The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Headteacher and the Service Manager (Primary Education):
 - Continue to raise the attainment of all children with a focus on improving outcomes in numeracy and mathematics.
 - Continue to develop approaches to learning and teaching with an increased focus on providing children with increased challenge in their learning and developing their creativity skills.
- 1.4. The evaluations given to the quality indicators for the primary school are as follows:
 - Learning, Teaching and Assessment -good.
 - Raising attainment and achievement – good.

- 1.5. HM Inspectors are confident in the school's capacity to continue to improve and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.
- 1.6. The areas for improvement, outlined above, will be taken forward by the school as part of the school improvement planning process and features on the plan for St Andrews Primary School over the next year to ensure that the priorities are developed and embedded in practice.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
 - i. Note the inspection letter in respect of St Andrews Primary School, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, issued by Education Scotland on 26 August 2025.

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 – Letter from Education Scotland.

26 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Andrew's 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.

- The welcoming, inclusive ethos where the school values are evident in the positive relationships across the school. Children make positive contributions to the work and life of the school and to the creative heritage of their community.
- The effective approaches to improving learning and teaching across the school. The headteacher has worked very well with staff to improve the quality and consistency of children's learning experiences at all stages.
- The whole school approach to improving attainment in writing. Children are highly motivated and enjoy writing. There is clear evidence of improved outcomes for children across the school.

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

- Continue to raise the attainment of all children with a focus on improving outcomes in numeracy and mathematics.
- Continue to develop approaches to learning and teaching with an increased focus on providing children with increased challenge in their learning and developing their creativity skills.

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 St Andrew's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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:

[St Andrew's Primary School | Inspection Report | Education 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.

Marion Carlton
HM Inspector