



**Item: 6**

**Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 13 November 2024.**

**North Ronaldsay Community School – Inspection.**

**Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.**

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## **1. Overview**

- 1.1.** In May 2024, Education Scotland undertook a short model inspection of North Ronaldsay Community School.
- 1.2.** The inspection team found the following strengths in the school’s work:
- Children learn in a nurturing environment where positive relationships are evident across the school community. Children are eager to talk about their learning and their life on North Ronaldsay.
  - The headteacher, who is bringing stability and direction to the school community. She has introduced effective processes to improve the quality of teaching and children’s learning experiences.
  - Staff’s introduction of a wider range of opportunities for children to achieve and learn new skills. This is helping children to be more confident and resilient.
- 1.3.** The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Headteacher, the Service Manager (Primary Education) and the Quality Improvement Officer (Attainment and Achievement):
- Staff should provide children with more opportunities to be active and independent in purposeful learning.
  - Staff should increase the pace of planned learning to ensure children make the best possible progress.
  - Staff should continue to address gaps in children’s literacy and numeracy to raise levels of attainment.
- 1.4.** The evaluations given to the quality indicators are as follows:
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment – satisfactory.
  - Raising attainment and achievement – satisfactory.
- 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 will feature on the plan for North Ronaldsay Community School over the next few years to ensure that they are embedded in practice.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1.** It is recommended that members of the Committee:
- i. Scrutinise the inspection letter in respect of North Ronaldsay Community School, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, issued by Education Scotland on 1 October 2024, in order to obtain assurance.

### **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** – Equality Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
- 6. Island Communities Impact** – 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.

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.

1 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited North Ronaldsay Community 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 learn in a nurturing environment where positive relationships are evident across the school community. Children are eager to talk about their learning and their life on North Ronaldsay.
- The headteacher is bringing stability and direction to the school community. She has introduced effective processes to improve the quality of teaching and children's learning experiences.
- Staff's introduction of a wider range of opportunities for children to achieve and learn new skills, this is helping children to be more confident and resilient.

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

- Staff should provide children with more opportunities to be active and independent in purposeful learning.
- Staff should increase the pace of planned learning to ensure children make the best possible progress.
- Staff should continue to address gaps in children's literacy and numeracy to raise levels of attainment.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 North Ronaldsay Community School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and review](#) | [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.

Helen Mulholland  
HM Inspector