

20 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Walkerburn Primary School and Nursery Class. 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 and nursery class's work.

- All staff work together well to provide care and support to children across the school and nursery. Children feel safe, valued and cared for.
- Children's increasing confidence using digital technology enhances their learning in the nursery and school.
- The school grounds and local environment are used well to provide rich and relevant learning experiences for children across the school.

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

- Senior leaders should review the roles and responsibilities of the staff team. This should support effective leadership and more robust evaluation of the work of the school and nursery.
- The staff team should continue to improve learning and teaching across the school and nursery. Staff should provide the right amount of challenge for all children in their learning and play.
- Staff should continue to develop approaches to planning and assessment to ensure that all children make the best possible progress in their learning across the curriculum.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) 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 Walkerburn Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</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>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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 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. Scottish Borders Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Victoria Morgan  
HM Inspector