10 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited The Orchard Nature Nursery Limited. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager and practitioners.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the setting's work.

- The very well considered, inspiring learning spaces and the motivating open-ended resources that support high levels of engagement. As a result, children are developing a wide range of skills very well. They are highly motivated by the rich learning experiences on offer both indoors and in the extensive garden space.

- The engagement, motivation and enthusiasm of children across the nursery. They play very well together and show kindness and respect to their friends.

- The embedded 'home from home' ethos which is evident across the nursery. Relationships between all staff, children and families are very strong and are a central part of the work of the nursery. Children are confident and calm as they learn within a safe and secure setting.

- Led by the manager, the development of high-quality interactions between staff and children as a result of sustained professional learning in this area. These interactions extend learning and deepen thinking. Children are highly engaged in their learning for sustained periods of time.

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

- As planned, staff should consider a more responsive pace in setting next steps in learning. This should ensure a greater level of challenge for a few children that would benefit from this.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some of the setting's work using two quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. Quality indicators help early learning and childcare settings, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish early learning and childcare settings are doing.

Here are HMIE's evaluations for The Orchard Nature Nursery Limited

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**very good**
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality	**very good**
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: The Orchard Nature Nursery | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland

What happens next?

We are confident that the setting has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Dumfries and Galloway Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

Morag Steele
HM Inspector

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

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