24 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Orphir 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.

- A calm, nurturing ethos across the school. The headteacher and staff have developed strong relationships and inclusive learning environments. This helps children to engage confidently and enjoy learning.
- Children who are welcoming, confident and proud of their school. They are respected and valued members of Orphir Community School. They successfully demonstrate their school values in their learning, interactions and activities.
- The high levels of attainment children achieve in literacy and numeracy. The headteacher and staff check-in on children's progress in learning effectively. They plan helpful, targeted teaching approaches to support children to progress well and achieve positive attainment outcomes.
- Children who engage enthusiastically in a variety of clubs, groups and activities within and out with the school. This supports children very well to develop as successful learners and make effective and positive contributions to the life and work of the school.

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

- The headteacher and staff should continue to improve the consistency of high-quality learning and teaching across the school. This should support the headteacher and teachers to ensure that all children are challenged effectively in their learning.
- Teachers should continue to enhance the support they provide to children to be active and independent in their learning. This should provide children with greater choice in how they learn and develop them further as successful learners.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using two 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 HMIE's evaluations for Orphir Community School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Raising attainment and achievement	**very 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 HMIE website at: Orphir Community School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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.

Fraser Gillan
HM Inspector

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

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