24 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Closeburn Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

Closeburn Primary School nursery class was inspected by Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore, we have agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.

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

- The newly appointed headteacher has correctly identified areas for improvement within the school. He has worked well with the new staff team to encourage a positive, enthusiastic approach to making changes to benefit the children in the school.

- The headteacher and support for learning staff have established effective ways to identify and plan for children who require additional support in their learning. This is helping to ensure children receive targeted support to make better progress in their learning.

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

- The local authority should work with the headteacher to provide much needed stability in staffing of the school. This should support the headteacher to build on the early start made to improving the school.

- Staff should continue to work together to improve the quality of learning and teaching.

- The headteacher and staff should continue to develop approaches to tracking and monitoring children's progress and ensure this information fully informs learning and teaching.

- The headteacher should work with staff to ensure children receive progression in learning across all subject areas. In particular, they should improve approaches to teaching all aspects of wellbeing including equality and diversity.


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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 Closeburn Primary School

| Quality indicators | Evaluation |
|---|---|
| **Learning, teaching and assessment** | **weak** |
| **Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion** | **weak** |
| 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: Closeburn School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland

**What happens next?**

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Dumfries and Galloway Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Dumfries and Galloway Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Sadie Cushley
HM Inspector

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


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