17 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited St Columba's RC 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 benefit from the calm and inclusive ethos across the school which is built upon staff's faith and the Gospel values. This results in children feeling valued with a strong sense of belonging.
- Staff have developed engaging and supportive spaces for children to learn in. Children use these spaces and resources positively, taking increased responsibility for their own learning.
- Staff have a strong understanding of children, families and the local community. Led very effectively by the leadership team, they use data very well to plan support and interventions that improve children's wellbeing and understanding of the wider world.

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

- Teachers should continue to embed high-quality approaches to learning and teaching. They should ensure all children consistently experience the right level of challenge in their learning.
- With support from the leadership team, teachers should develop approaches to involving children more fully in discussing and reviewing their learning. This should support children to talk with increased confidence about skills learned and the progress they are making.

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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 St Columba's RC School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Wellbeing, equality and inclusion	**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:
St Columba's RC 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. Dumfries and Galloway Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Gillian Frew
HM Inspector

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

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