

2 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Drumduan (Steiner) School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with managers and staff.

The kindergarten was inspected as part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using [the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors](#).

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

- Across the school and kindergarten, children and young people benefit from opportunities to learn and play in a nature rich setting. Steiner Waldorf approaches, together with the forest environment, supports children and young people to develop their imagination, problem solving skills, physical fitness and emotional wellbeing.
- Children and young people display caring and supportive relationships towards each other. They value the close-knit school community and their friendships with their peers.
- Staff have introduced opportunities for young people in the upper school to attain qualifications. As a result, an increasing young people are experiencing success through these qualifications.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the coordinator leads team and a representative from the Board of Governors.

- The newly appointed education manager and kindergarten manager should continue to develop their leadership roles to improve the work of the school. The Board of Trustees need to take a greater role in supporting them on this improvement journey.
- Children and young people in the school require better opportunities to lead and take responsibility. They should be more involved in decisions about their learning and their school. The education manager and staff should develop a culture in which all children and young people's voices are heard and their opinions are valued.
- Staff in the school need to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching in line with Steiner Waldorf approaches. They should improve teaching to ensure children and young people's learning is motivating and well matched to their needs and abilities.
- Staff across the school and kindergarten should develop approaches that will allow them to understand the progress children and young people are making in their learning. They should use information about children and young people's progress to plan learning which supports children and young people to make the best possible progress.

- Managers and the Board of Trustees have worked together to take forward areas for improvement in safeguarding which required urgent action. They should now continue to address other safeguarding issues and review the impact of this work over time.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Education Scotland's evaluations for Drumduan (Steiner) School

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the kindergarten's work using three quality indicators from [the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors](#). As this inspection is part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors, these quality indicators have not been graded.

Quality indicators for the nursery class
Curriculum
Learning, teaching and assessment
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Drumduan School \(formerly Moray Steiner School and Drumduan Upper School\) | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings, we think that the school and kindergarten need additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with the Board of Trustees regarding the school and kindergarten's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school and kindergarten within nine months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with the Board of Trustees 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.

Monica Reilly
HM Inspector