

19 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2025, HM Inspectors published a letter on Drumduan (Steiner) School and Kindergarten. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and the Board of Trustees. Recently, as you may know, we visited the kindergarten again. At the time of our visit the lower, middle and upper schools were closed. As a result, we were unable to evaluate the progress made towards the areas for improvement in relation to the school age provision. During our visit, we worked closely with the kindergarten manager, the Board of Trustees and a representative of Moray Council. We heard from them and other staff about the steps the kindergarten has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the kindergarten has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

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.

There has been significant progress towards this area for improvement in the kindergarten. The kindergarten manager was very new in post at the original inspection. She worked at pace to create a detailed action plan. The plan was informed using the inspection findings and her own, accurate evaluation of the kindergarten's strengths and areas where improvement was needed. The kindergarten manager's skill in developing highly effective relationships with the Drumduan community, has supported her to foster a confident and effective team. The team work well together to deliver effective improvement.

The Board of Trustees has now appointed a dedicated member of the Board to link directly with the kindergarten. This is impacting positively on relationships between the kindergarten team and the Board. Staff now feel valued and are better supported to take forward their work. The trustee should continue to work with the kindergarten manager to provide informed support and challenge with a clear focus on ensuring all children flourish.

The Board has worked well with the kindergarten manager and local authority to expand the kindergarten provision. Children and families now benefit from the option of full days. Parents value the increased flexibility this offers them. Staff recognise the opportunity this has given them to explore the flow of the day in line with the Steiner Waldorf principles. The Board has taken significant steps to secure additional staffing. The team are making effective use of the additional staffing to accelerate their ongoing development work.

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.

Due to the closure of the lower, middle and upper schools, HM Inspectors did not gather evidence on this area for improvement.

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.

Due to the closure of the lower, middle and upper schools, HM Inspectors did not gather evidence on this area for improvement.

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.

There has been significant progress towards this area for improvement in the kindergarten. The kindergarten manager has been proactive in exploring approaches to identifying and recording the progress children make. She has built highly effective partnerships, including Steiner kindergartens and Waldorf UK, to ensure that new systems align well with Steiner Waldorf approaches.

All staff have participated in effective professional development. This has enhanced their knowledge and skills in observing children as they play and using the information gathered to inform next steps in learning. Staff articulate clearly the positive impact this is having on their practice. They record observations that are deeply personal and focus on children's emotional wellbeing, social development, creativity and emerging literacy and numeracy skills. All staff have a deep understanding of each child as an individual. Their new planning approaches outline clearly the individual support they put in place to ensure every child receives the right support at the right time.

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.

The Board have taken positive steps to improve approaches to safeguarding.

What happens next?

The kindergarten has made significant progress since the original inspection. We are confident that the kindergarten has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The Board of Trustees will inform parents about the kindergarten's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of the school.

HMIE was informed by the Registrar for Independent Schools that the Board of Trustees voluntarily requested the school provision be removed from the Register of Independent Schools on 12 March 2026. HM Inspectors will therefore make no further visits in connection with the inspection of the school.

Marion Carlton
HM Inspector

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