

15 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Cullivoe Primary 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.

- Across the school, children are polite, friendly and participate well in their learning. They embody the school's values very well in the school and local community. Children are supported by warm, nurturing and positive relationships with other children and adults.
- Children are supported very well by effective partnerships in the local and wider community. These partnerships enrich their learning experiences and support them well to extend and strengthen their wider achievement.
- Children benefit from extensive opportunities to learn about sustainability. They experience meaningful learning which extends well their environmental knowledge and skills.

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

- Teachers should now improve approaches to planning children's learning across the curriculum. They need to ensure that children experience more consistently learning that builds upon what they already know and can do.
- The headteacher and teachers need to track more robustly children's attainment and achievement across all areas of the curriculum. They should use the data collected more effectively to identify children's strengths and next steps in learning. This should help them plan learning which provides appropriate support and challenge to better meet the needs of all learners.

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 Cullivoe Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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: [Cullivoe Primary 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. Shetland 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 Forsyth
HM Inspector

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