

Dear Parents and Carers,

An external validation visit was undertaken at Marown Primary School on the 1st July 2024 as part of a programme of external validation of schools commissioned by The Isle of Man Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC). The aim of the external validation visit was to promote continuous improvement and to deliver consistency, share best practice and deliver positive outcomes for children and young people. The visit was undertaken by two independent external validators from Tribal Education.

External validators looked at a wide range of evidence presented by school leaders, including the school self-evaluation, and sampled the work of the school during the visit. These activities were focussed on key areas based on the self-evaluation of the school and included visits to a cross-section of lessons, meetings with staff and pupils, gathering the views of parents and Governors where appropriate and scrutiny of documentation.

During the visit, external validators considered key areas of focus which were explored in collaboration with the school leaders to validate school leaders' own evaluations.

Marown Primary School is at the heart of the community, where the values and culture are an intrinsic part of the school. Parents and carers represented as part of the external validation visit recognised the visibility and accessibility of staff at all levels to support their children, both socially, emotionally and academically.

Relationships across the school community are positive and based on trust, this in turn creates a genuine sense of home-school partnership.

You especially value the opportunities that are provided by the school to enrich the curriculum for your children through educational trips and visits, the London trip being a highlight for Year 6 children, alongside the opportunity for children to take part in public speaking events.

The Lead Learners from across all year groups enthusiastically shared how they particularly enjoy being given choices about how they learn, and relish opportunities for activity-based learning which is directly relevant to their lives and future aspirations. For example, an innovative lesson on the design of robots encouraged children to reflect with great maturity on the wider impact of AI on society and human relationships.

Where your children are actively engaged in the classroom in this way, they show really positive attitudes towards their learning.

Mobile technology is also appropriately integrated into lessons and helps to motivate children to effectively and imaginatively capture their learning. The examples seen as part of the visit pave the way for a curriculum and teaching approaches which will allow your children to make real connections across their learning and pave the way for their future lives.

Senior Leaders' ambition to develop these innovative approaches for learning and teaching, reflecting your children's future needs as lifelong learners, is at the centre of their vision for the school. Building on the external validation process, school leaders are considering how they continue to involve all staff in identifying priorities for the further development of teaching and learning, as part of next phase of the school's improvement planning.

The aim of this development is to personalise learning experiences for your children, and to also actively involve you, as valued partners, in helping to shape a vision for learning for the future of the school. Within the classroom, this process will be supported by a focus on the development of common approaches to assessment as a driver for teaching and learning, which places emphasis on maximising the individual progress of every one of your children within a culture of support and nurture where every child can succeed.

The areas of growth identified above, as part of the external validation visit, are being reviewed and actioned by the school as part of a continuous cycle of self-evaluation.

Kind regards

Nicola Morris

Lead Validator
External Validation Team