



# Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd

18<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Mr Max Kelly  
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Dhoon Primary School  
Maughold  
Isle of Man  
IM7 1HA

**Assessment Date: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

## Summary

The beauty of the natural setting compels almost, an adherence to nurture and to care and the school most definitely is in compliance! Dhoon sits within a rural idyll but do NOT be fooled into thinking it is a place of complacency and passivity. There is a vital energy here that reaches out to shout aspiration and inspiration to the entire community. The dynamism derives from a clear and communicated belief and passion that is immediately perceptible and completely undeniable. There are no assumptions made and no automatic judgements or acceptances. There is however, an emphatic building of a climate of investigation and discovery that is lively and energising. This school shouts 'To ignore us is YOUR loss!'

There is no easily recognisable catchment for Dhoon. The children come from a widespread area of the island without a clear or recognisable central location. The physical separation between school and community is further increased by the need for bussing many of the pupils into school. This results in a seemingly disparate community. The challenge for Dhoon is to create unity and a clear identity and this it most definitely does. The school IS the community. It creates a heart that gives substance and weaves a tangible core of clear values and purpose. This school also ensures that it not only creates a clear secure sense of belonging but it also gives its pupils the resilience to look outwards and to build sustainable and confident futures.

Within the school there is a passionate commitment to promote and build expressive thinking. Creative and imaginative thoughts and ideas flourish here. It reminds me of the frost patterns that grow uniquely up a surface... each shape unique but connected and secure because of the pattern formed beneath it. The holistic journey of inclusion is the pattern here in Dhoon and it inspires ideas to flourish. Confidence is grown through the precision of structure and secure vigilance. Nothing is taken for granted and no assumptions are made. This entire community is enrolled into the journey of creative discovery. With such clarity of scaffolded processes the culture of confidence to address new investigations and to challenge personal goals is vibrant and enthused.

Growing emotional literacy is a focus for action here. Vehicles for enhanced self-expression and self-review are inclusive of the needs of everyone. The minutiae are not ignored and processes are tirelessly interrogated and explored, to be pre-emptive of need. The spirit of discovery is exciting and has the energy of NOW! The children are fully

responsive to the culture of exploration knowing as they do, that support and encouragement are endemic qualities of their school. Learning here has an energy all of its own and each success nurtures and accelerates the next!

### **Summary Comments for Pupils**

A big thank you, to you, the pupils of Dhoon Primary School. You are always ready to share and to offer help. You greeted me so readily and made me feel welcomed straight away. I know you do this for each other too. It is clear that you are very proud of all that happens in your school. Learning is such fun here and you are enthused about all the possibilities that your teachers give and share with you. You always give of your best and you love to explore so many different ways of presenting your work. Well done all of you, you have every right to feel proud of what you achieve.

Emma Huxham has enthusiastically led the collation and presentation of evidence in readiness for this assessment. The Self Evaluation Report is thorough and reflects the capacity of this school to build its Inclusive values still further.

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My recommendation is that this school be awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark. Dhoon is full of the energy of a shared pedagogy and is at the start of such an exciting journey. With time to embed and time to build impact measurements to feed next steps planning, Dhoon can excel right through the Inclusion Journey.

I am of the opinion that the school fully meets the standard required by the Inclusion Quality Mark. There are only minor areas requiring development and the school has shown a wide range of inclusive practices, should be awarded the Mark and be reassessed in three years' time.

I also recommend that the school be awarded Centre of Excellence status subject to the inclusion within its plans of the appropriate areas for development and the completion of the Centre of Excellence documentation.

If the school wishes to pursue Centre of Excellence the IQM is to be supported by the production of a three year action plan based on the identified and agreed development points as well as the Future Plans identified by the school itself, within each of the 8 Elements. The action plan should reflect the school's determination to respond to the challenge and expectation of COE status. The development points are offered in an advisory capacity and not meant to be slavishly actioned. It is hoped that the school will prioritise some areas and build steadily through the year to the first review. If the school chooses to pursue this status and it were to be awarded the school would be subject to annual review from this point forwards.

**Assessor: Dr Wendy Daley**

**Findings confirmed by Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd:**



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Joe McCann MBA NPQH  
Director of Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd