

8 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Carstairs 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.

- The headteacher's highly effective leadership, supported by the principal teacher and staff team has created a strong, inclusive and nurturing ethos. As a result, almost all children feel safe, respected and ready to learn, demonstrating confidence, pride and positive relationships.
- Staff make highly-effective use of learning environments, including outdoor learning, digital technologies and play contexts. These approaches support creativity, collaboration and problem-solving, and enhance children's motivation and engagement.
- Attainment in literacy and numeracy is consistently strong over time. The headteacher has a clear and strategic approach to tracking and monitoring attainment, which supports sustained high performance.
- Staff use assessment information very effectively to monitor children's progress and identify children who need support or challenge. Targeted interventions, robust tracking of children's attainment and the well-planned use of Pupil Equity Funding are improving attainment across the school.

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

- Staff should increase opportunities for children to lead their learning across the curriculum. This includes working with teachers to identify their steps to success and contributing to the design of learning.
- Staff should provide increased opportunities for children to identify, articulate and reflect on the skills they are developing. They should support children to apply these skills confidently across a range of contexts.

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 Carstairs Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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: [Inspection reports | 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. South Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Lorraine Shaw
HM Inspector

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