3 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In August 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Whitecross Primary School and nursery class. 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.

- All staff across the school and nursery have established a caring and inclusive environment for children to learn in. Staff demonstrate highly positive relationships daily. This results in strong, trusting relationships between staff and children and children are very respectful of one another. This has created a nurturing ethos for learning.
- Led effectively by the headteacher, all staff in the school and nursery contribute very well to improving children's experiences and outcomes. As a result, they successfully make improvements to the quality of learning and teaching across the school.
- Senior leaders and staff in the school and nursery use strong approaches for checking the progress of children. They make effective use of data to identify gaps in children's learning and plan approaches to improve outcomes for children who require this. Teachers use this data well to plan learning that meets the needs of all children.
- Staff in the nursery know children and families well. They are highly skilled and provide a wide variety of stimulating learning experiences both indoors and outdoors. As a result, all children make very good progress in their learning.

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

- Staff should build further on existing positive developments in learning, teaching and assessment across the school. This should include ensuring that children continue to develop digital skills and learn additional languages as set out in national guidance.
- Staff in the school should continue with plans to improve approaches to teaching writing and listening and talking skills. This should help to improve children's literacy outcomes further.
- Staff should monitor the impact of the variety of approaches used to raise attainment for individuals. In particular, they need to identify the impact of each on improving individual children's outcomes. This should ensure that the best supports are in place for each child to maximise their progress.

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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 Whitecross Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	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	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the ELC's work using two quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors.

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**very good**
Children's Progress	**very good**

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: Whitecross Primary School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland

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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. Falkirk Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Judith Reid
HM Inspector

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

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