

18 August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited St John's Primary School (Blackwood). 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.

- Children are friendly, polite, confident and articulate. They treat each other and others with kindness and respect and their behaviour is consistently very positive.
- The school provides a warm, nurturing environment, strongly influenced by Gospel values. This welcoming ethos, described as a 'small school with a big heart', helps children feel happy, safe and ready to learn.
- Led effectively by the recently appointed headteacher, staff work well together to support children's learning and wellbeing. They use creative approaches which encourage children to share their ideas and take an active role in school life.
- Teachers provide a wide range of engaging outdoor learning experiences. These help children to use their skills and knowledge in different and meaningful ways.

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

- Staff should continue to strengthen their approaches to school improvement planning, to ensure a clear and consistent focus on improving outcomes for all children.
- Teachers should continue to develop a shared, whole-school approach to learning and teaching, based on what high-quality learning looks like at St John's Primary School.
- Staff should continue to improve how children learn across different subjects, so they build their knowledge and skills step by step in a range of contexts.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 St John's Primary School (Blackwood)

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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:

[St John's 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. 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.

Jacqueline Gallagher
 HM Inspector

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