

27 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St. Mary's 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.

- Children across the school and nursery who are polite and keen to learn. They show respect and kindness in their interactions with adults and each other. Children are proud of their school and nursery.
- Staff in the school and nursery who have a deep understanding of the local community. They know children and their families very well and have established warm, caring and supportive relationships. The inclusive and positive culture helps children to feel safe, cared for and valued.
- Children's learning experiences in the nursery. Children enjoy participating in positive learning and play activities. This supports their wellbeing and helps them to develop confidence and resilience.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from North Lanarkshire Council.

- Improve the leadership of change in the school and nursery. Senior leaders, with support from the local authority, need to ensure that improvement priorities are identified through robust self-evaluation and addressed effectively.
- Improve the quality of planning in the school. Senior leaders and teachers need to ensure that all planning across the curriculum is based on accurate assessment information to meet the learning needs of all children.
- Improve the understanding of national standards. Senior leaders and teachers need to work with colleagues across the school and local authority to develop further their understanding of progress within and across Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels.
- Improve assessment and tracking within the school and nursery. Senior leaders, teachers and practitioners need to develop more effective approaches to assessing and tracking children's learning. This will help them to make more accurate evaluations about children's progress and better meet children's learning needs.
- Raise attainment and ensure that all children make the best possible progress in their learning in the school and nursery.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#). 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 Education Scotland's evaluations for St. Mary's Primary School and Nursery Class

| Quality indicators for the primary stages                                                                                                                | Evaluation          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>weak</b>         |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>weak</b>         |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>                                                                                                        | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>                                                                                                                | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a> |                     |

| Quality indicators for the nursery class                                                                                                             | Evaluation          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>                                                                                                                          | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>                                                                                                             | <b>good</b>         |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>                                                                                                    | <b>good</b>         |
| <b>Securing children's progress</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>satisfactory</b> |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a> |                     |

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Find an inspection report | Education Scotland](#)

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with North Lanarkshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with North Lanarkshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

M.A. Speirs  
HM Inspector