

8 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited St Stephen's 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.

- Senior leaders have created a highly inclusive ethos across the school and Language and Communication Support Classes (LCSC). This ethos is underpinned by the Gospel values and embraced by children, staff and parents. As a result, children believe in themselves and know that they are highly valued members of the school community.
- The headteacher and senior leadership team provide outstanding leadership. They motivate children and staff to lead change with enthusiasm and confidence. Children and staff are trusted and actively involved in improving the school. Their contributions make a positive difference to them as individuals and to the school community. This highly effective leadership at all levels supports the school's continued growth and improvement.
- Staff show a sustained, shared commitment to high-quality professional learning. As a result, senior leaders and staff have a strong understanding of how children learn. They use this knowledge very effectively to plan creative and engaging learning experiences that help children become independent learners. Children are enthusiastic about learning, work very well together and confidently explain how they solve problems across different areas of learning.
- Senior leaders and all staff are ambitious in their approaches to ensuring each child is included fully in all aspects of the school. Children in the LCSC engage in high quality experiences that are well-matched to the learning of their peers in the mainstream classes. Any barriers to learning or participation in whole school events are removed. As a result, children feel fully included and make strong progress in their learning.

The following area for improvement was identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from North Lanarkshire Council.

- Continue to raise attainment as planned. In doing so, develop further children's understanding of their own strengths and next steps when learning different subjects together, such as science and social subjects.

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 Stephen's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	excellent
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	excellent
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: [St Stephen'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. North Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Dr Elizabeth C. Montgomery
 HM Inspector

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