18 August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited St Andrew's RC Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Class (ELCC). 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.

- In the school and ELCC, children are polite, articulate and demonstrate kindness and respect for all adults and their peers. Children support one another with empathy and this results in a very positive environment for learning.

- The Gospel values support very strong, positive relationships in an inclusive learning environment where every child is cared for and known well. This results in a consistent and caring approach to meet children's learning and wellbeing needs across the school.

- The highly regarded headteacher provides outstanding strategic leadership for the school. Together with staff, he has created a climate where the school community shares a common vision for improvement and are empowered to drive these improvements.

- Children have a key role in leading and supporting change and improvement across the school. Working closely with staff, and children from partner schools, they are helping to deliver improvements in wellbeing and learning for all.

- Staff provide highly engaging, positive learning experiences which support children to take a strong role in leading their own learning. This is improving children's engagement and motivation and helping them make very good progress in their learning.

- Staff in the ELCC deliver very effective transition programmes for children entering nursery and as they move onto P1. These approaches are ensuring children settle well and support continuity of learning.

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

- As planned, teachers should continue to work collaboratively to develop a progressive framework to support the tracking and monitoring of pupil's skills.

- In the ELCC, staff should work with parents and children to provide increased clarity about how learning across the curriculum is delivered. This should include how children develop digital skills, skills for learning and life and how the ELCC promotes children's rights.

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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 Andrew's RC Primary School and ELCC

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Leadership of change	**excellent**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**very good**
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	**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	

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

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Curriculum	**good**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**very good**
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality	**very good**

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: St Andrew's RC 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.

Donny MacDonald
HM Inspector

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

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