

15 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Braehead Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre (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.

- The headteacher and staff in the school and ELCC work very well together to create positive, respectful and trusting relationships with children and parents. There is a welcoming, caring and inclusive ethos across the school and ELCC. As a result, children feel safe, valued and nurtured.
- Senior leaders and staff in the school have worked well to develop creative and engaging learning environments for children.
- Senior leaders and staff have developed well-planned and effective support for children who need support with learning.
- Staff in the ELCC provide effective opportunities to allow children to develop a good understanding of taking risks in their play and learning. As a result, children are developing very well their independence and resilience.

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

- Senior leaders and staff should continue to develop the consistency of high-quality learning and teaching across the school. Senior leaders should continue, as planned, to support staff to ensure all children experience well-paced learning that is matched carefully to their needs.
- Senior leaders should develop further how they measure children's progress over time. In doing so, they should raise children's attainment across all aspects of literacy and numeracy.
- Senior leaders should increase purposeful collaboration with ELCC staff to ensure children experience a progressive curriculum. They need to ensure that the curriculum takes greater account of what children need as they grow and develop.
- Senior leaders and the local authority have worked together to take forward areas for improvement in safeguarding which required urgent action. They should continue to monitor and review the impact of this work over time.

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 Braehead Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality	good

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | HMIE](#)

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

Denise Penman
HM Inspector

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