

# Report

Report to:	<b>Hamilton Area Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>28 February 2024</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Education Scotland Report - St Mary's Primary School (Larkhall)</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise of the outcome of the inspection of St Mary's Primary School, Larkhall by Education Scotland inspectors

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on St. Mary's Primary School, Larkhall be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. St. Mary's Primary School, Larkhall was inspected in June 2023 as part of a national sample of primary education.
- 3.2. As part of the revised approach to inspection, the Education Scotland inspectors evaluated; learning, teaching and assessment and raising attainment and achievement.
- 3.3. The inspection team analysed questionnaires issued to a sample of parents, pupils and to all staff. Inspectors observed class lessons and interviewed groups of pupils, including the pupil council, and staff. Members of the inspection team also met parents and members of the local community.
- 3.4. The report by Education Scotland was published on 12 September 2023.

## 4. Finding of HM inspectors

4.1. Education Scotland made comment under the following headings:-

### School

- ♦ Learning, teaching and assessment
- ♦ Raising attainment and achievement

4.2. The particular strengths of the school were identified as follows:-

- ◆ Children engage well in their learning and are very friendly and kind to one another and to staff. They enjoy being at St. Mary's and feel respected and valued by all members of staff.
- ◆ The headteacher and staff create a very calm, purposeful learning environment that supports all children to learn and achieve.
- ◆ All staff across the school support each other well through professional learning. They work together well to improve children's learning and help them to achieve their potential.

4.3. Education Scotland identified the following areas for continued improvement:-

- ◆ Teachers should continue to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment. This should include more flexible use of digital tools and greater opportunities for children to lead their learning.
- ◆ Teachers should increase their use of information on children's progress to plan appropriate next steps and agree them with children. As planned, the school should continue to develop ways to identify and track the skills children develop across all of their learning experiences.

4.4. As well as welcoming the strengths of the school, it should be noted that the areas for continued improvement have already been incorporated into the school's improvement plan.

4.5. Education Scotland have intimated that they are confident that the school will be able to take forward the areas for improvement and will make no more visits in connection with this report. The local authority will inform parents about the school's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of its schools.

4.6. Additional inspection evidence can be accessed by clicking the following web link:-  
[St Mary's Primary School Larkhall, South Lanarkshire 12/09/23 \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/publications/inspections-and-modifications/reports-and-outputs/primary-school-inspections/St-Marys-Primary-School-Larkhall-South-Lanarkshire-12-09-23/Pages/default.aspx)

## 5. Employee Implications

5.1. None

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1. None

## 7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. None

## 8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report which is provided for information only.

## 9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

9.2. The content of Education Scotland reports is shared with parents and discussed at Parent Council meetings.

**Carole McKenzie**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

1 February 2024

**Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships

**Previous References**

- ◆ None

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Education Scotland Report of St Mary's Primary School, Larkhall - 12 September 2023

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact-:

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