

2 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cathkin 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.

- The highly-effective leadership provided by the headteacher and senior leadership team. Together, they create a supportive, inclusive culture, recognised by the school community.
- Across the establishment, all staff work very well together as a team. They engage well with professional learning and reflect on their practice. Well-considered, engaging approaches to learning and teaching are impacting positively on children's progress and achievement.
- The whole school community have worked well to create an ethos of nurture and compassion, where children and adults feel valued and listened to. Wellbeing is central to the work of all staff across the school and nursery.
- The quality of teamwork and nurturing approaches to support children's learning in supported classes. This is enhanced by staff skills and consistency in using a range of alternative communication aids to develop children's language and communication skills effectively. Tracking children's progress is a key strength.

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

- In primary classes, continue to raise attainment across the curriculum, with a particular focus on writing.
- In nursery, continue to improve the quality and use of observations of children's learning. Practitioners need to be able to demonstrate more effectively the progress children are making in their learning.

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 Cathkin Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <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>good</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>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <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:  
<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page//?id=2003>

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

Lisa Marie McDonnell  
Managing Inspector