

26 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Heathery Knowe 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 welcoming and supportive ethos that exists in both the nursery and the school and the strong emphasis on promoting nurture and respect for all.
- In the three months since taking up her post the headteacher has demonstrated strong leadership and provided clear direction. Following a long period of change in senior leadership, the headteacher has successfully created a cohesive staff team who are firmly focused on improving outcomes for children. Some of the initiatives aimed at improving aspects of the quality of the work of the school are at an early stage. However, there is clear evidence of their impact on children's confidence, their relationships with each other and their growing pride in their school.
- The impact of professional learning opportunities, including implementing changes to the teaching of literacy, on improving children's attainment in spelling.

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

- Improve the quality and consistency of learning and teaching across the nursery and primary stages. Develop through relevant professional development a shared understanding of the value of play based-pedagogy in both the nursery and the early primary stages.
- Focus future professional learning on improving moderation activities through collaborative learning within the school and the cluster. Working in this way will build staff confidence in making professional judgements about children's achievement of a level. Similarly, improved analysis of data which will help staff plan timely appropriate interventions for children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) 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 Heathery Knowe Primary School and Nursery Class

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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/south-lanarkshire/8531129> .

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.

Marion Burns
HM Inspector