

14 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Halfmerke Primary School. 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.

- Friendly, well-mannered children who are keen to learn. They respond well to the opportunities they have to support school improvement.
- Strong, supportive teamwork evident across the school. Staff who demonstrate a willingness and commitment to improving the work of the school.
- Children are aware of the needs of others in meaningful ways through the school's approaches to inclusion.

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

- Together with staff, the headteacher needs to improve approaches to self-evaluation to ensure that new developments are monitored carefully and the impact is closely measured. Children, parents and partners need to be supported to have a stronger role in evaluating the work of the school.
- Raise children's attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school. In doing so, develop further approaches to assessment.
- The headteacher now needs to take a stronger strategic lead of the curriculum to ensure all children receive their full entitlement to a broad general education.
- Involve parents more in the life of the school. In doing so, ensure parents are better informed about their children's progress and how they can support their children's learning at home.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Halfmerke Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</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>	

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=2854>

### 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.

Jackie Maley  
 HM Inspector