

12 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mary's 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.

- 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.

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

- 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.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Education Scotland's evaluations for St Mary's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review](#) | [Education Scotland](#)

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.

David Drysdale
HM Inspector