

19 December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Kirk O'Shotts Primary School and Nursery Class
North Lanarkshire Council**

In March 2016, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and North Lanarkshire Council. We subsequently returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve its work, and published another letter in November 2016. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found. The Care Inspectorate inspected the nursery class at the same time and that report will be available at www.careinspectorate.com.

Improve the curriculum to ensure children make progress in all areas

The acting headteacher, relatively new in post, and acting depute headteacher have taken considerable steps in driving forward much needed improvements across the school and nursery class. We acknowledge the considerable investment and valued support North Lanarkshire Council has provided to Kirk O'Shotts Primary School. The curriculum now takes account of the guidance set out within Curriculum for Excellence. Senior leaders have provided staff with progression pathways in most curricular areas which helps children to build on their previous learning as they move through the school. All staff are now clearer about what they are trying to achieve through the curriculum both across the school and nursery class. Children are now experiencing much more exciting, motivating contexts for learning across subject areas. The playroom in the nursery class now offers more scope for children to explore early literacy and numeracy activities. There are now many more opportunities for children to develop a range of skills and staff are making them much more aware of how these skills can be used in the world of work. As a result of strong leadership and direction from the acting headteacher and depute headteacher, staff are now clearer about national standards and are supported well to help children make progress in the nursery class and across the school. All staff have worked effectively with the leadership team to improve the school.

Ensure effective processes are in place to assess children's work and track their progress

The leadership team have developed successful ways to track and monitor the work of the school. Staff now meet regularly with the leadership team to analyse attainment data to ensure children are appropriately challenged and supported in class. Staff are building their confidence in using this data to effectively identify children for a range of support to help improve their attainment. Nursery practitioners now also record children's learning and are beginning to track children's progress in their individual personal learning folders. As a result of more effective tracking of children's progress, attainment across the school is improving. However, the range of measures now in place to effectively support children and monitor their progress will take time to impact fully on overall attainment. Therefore, at the moment, although attainment is better, there is scope to improve it further.

Improve arrangements for identifying and meeting the learning needs of all children

The principal teacher has been instrumental in maintaining improvements in the arrangements for identifying the learning needs of children. The school has improved the ways in which it supports children with additional needs to ensure they make appropriate progress in their learning. The school should proceed as planned to ensure that learning targets are appropriate for children who have support plans. Overall, learning tasks and activities in class are more clearly matched to children's learning needs. Expectations and aspirations for children are also higher. Nursery practitioners are now included and are able to fully contribute to interagency meetings held to discuss ways to best support children and their families. Staff have embraced change and worked very hard with the new management team to bring about significant improvements to the school.

Develop rigorous and robust approaches to self-evaluation to improve all aspects of the school's work

The acting headteacher, and the acting deputy headteacher have made a very positive start in driving forward much needed improvement across the school. They have established, along with staff, a strong and clear vision for Kirk O'Shotts Primary School. There is a clear sense of direction and purpose for the school. Approaches to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school are more regular and are leading to improvements in learning and teaching. Staff have embraced change and managed the pace of change effectively. They have shown a high degree of professionalism and commitment to professional learning and collegiate working. As a result, children's experiences are improving. In the nursery, practitioners have made important changes to the learning environment and routines that have had an impact on improving learning for children. Teachers in school and practitioners in the nursery now reflect on their practice more regularly. They benefit from more formal arrangements to work in teams and share good practice. Staff should continue to develop their confidence in making robust evaluations about the work of the school and nursery. In moving forward it will be important for the new headteacher, when appointed, to continue to increase the pace of change to ensure the school goes from strength to strength.

What happens next?

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. We will ask North Lanarkshire Council for a report on progress within one year of the inspection which will provide us with information regarding the leadership of the school and for an update on children's attainment. This report will inform any decision made by Education Scotland regarding further engagement. This may include another inspection visit. When such a decision is made, Education Scotland or North Lanarkshire Council will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and will outline any further action.

Guch Dhillon
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.