

1 November 2016

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. 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 school has taken initial steps to improve the curriculum. These take account of the entitlements for children set out within Curriculum for Excellence. Staff are making more use of Curriculum for Excellence guidance to support children in their learning. Senior leaders have established an overview of all curricular areas that include the topics to be covered across the school. Children are now receiving a sufficiently broad or balanced curriculum experience. However staff including senior leaders still do not have a consistent and shared understanding of what they are trying to achieve for children through the curriculum. Further work is required to ensure that the school including the nursery class has a clear and agreed strategy for the development of children's literacy and numeracy skills.

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

The school's approaches to monitoring children's learning and progress remain at an early stage of development. The school have introduced standardised assessments that provide them with information about the strengths and clear individual developmental needs. Initial work on making improvements in observing children's learning has been encouraged and currently revisited with the new nursery staff team from August 2016. Overall, the school has not overtaken this area for improvement in a way that allows them to clearly and robustly track and evaluate children's learning.

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

There have been improvements made in the arrangements for meeting the learning needs of children. In most lessons observed, learning tasks and activities still need to be more clearly matched to children's learning needs. Expectations and aspirations for children are still too low. We have asked the school to continue to ensure that individual plans with appropriate realistic targets are in place for all children requiring additional support including those in the nursery class who require them. Local authority support and guidance has resulted in the school's procedures for safeguarding and protecting children being fully implemented. In the nursery class, recent changes to the environment are beginning to improve children's choice and take more account of their interests. Real life situations are becoming more frequent and children are making a positive response. The environment for learning and improved resources is helping children settle to learning more productively.

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

The local authority has worked with nursery staff to help improve aspects of the nursery such as changes to the lead practitioner. The headteacher has put in place opportunities for staff to visit other establishments that are helping to build confidence of staff in self-evaluation. However there remains considerable work to be undertaken. There is initial progress to date of a better approach to self-evaluation within the nursery class but this is at the very early stages. Within the primary classes, approaches to monitoring and evaluation are still not regular enough and do not always lead to improvements in learning and teaching. Overall, there has been limited progress made on this area across the school and nursery. Identified priorities of improvement have had insufficient impact on bringing about positive change. There is still an urgent need to have a more systematic and shared approach to gathering evidence about what the school does well and what it needs to do to improve. In addition, there is still a continued need to create a shared vision for what the school aims to achieve through its ambition for children. Overall, there are weaknesses in the leadership of the school. We asked that the education authority take significant action to improve the leadership and direction of the school.

What happens next?

The school has made insufficient progress since the original inspection. We will liaise with North Lanarkshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school. We will discuss with North Lanarkshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents informing you of the progress the school has made.

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.

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