

4 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Class (Duntocher). 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 aspirational culture and ethos which is led and sustained very effectively by the headteacher. Senior leaders and staff support children to achieve high standards and levels of engagement within a nurturing and inclusive culture. As a result, children in the Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC) and school enjoy learning and playing together as they achieve success.
- The very strong collaboration by senior leaders and staff in the school and ELCC. They engage in highly effective professional learning and regularly reflect on their practice. This is supporting high-quality learning and high levels of attainment.
- The high-quality, creative approaches to play in the ELCC, P1 and P2. This is helping to develop children's curiosity, confidence, creativity, knowledge, skills and attributes.
- The range of high-quality opportunities and experiences that children in the school and ELCC have to have to develop skills for learning, life and work. These experiences help children to achieve success in different contexts.
- The very effective use of data and processes led by senior leaders to monitor children's progress in learning in the school. These processes help staff to identify and support children's learning needs and raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.

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

- Across the primary classes, continue to ensure children have access to and use consistently high-quality feedback to support their ongoing learning.
- In the school and ELCC, continue to monitor and track children's skills development, including through their wider achievements.

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 St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Class (Duntocher)

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
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	very good
Securing children's progress	very good
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: [St Mary's Primary School | Inspection Report | 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. West Dunbartonshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Robyn McIlroy
HM Inspector