

12 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dunblane Primary School and Nursery Class. 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.

- Across the school and nursery all staff have established a positive, nurturing ethos. Children show respect and care towards each other. They are involved fully in the life of the school and nursery and have many opportunities for personal achievement.
- Teachers give children many opportunities to use their literacy and numeracy skills in new and interesting ways when linking learning across the curriculum.
- The highly skilled practitioners in the nursery provide a wide range of learning experiences which promote children's curiosity and enquiry, both indoors and outdoors. Children are highly engaged and motivated in their play and learning.
- Senior leaders and practitioners in the nursery share online learning journals with partner settings, working very effectively together. They build on children's prior learning across settings successfully which helps children to make very good progress in their learning.

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

- Senior leaders and teachers should review approaches to planning and assessment, as planned. They should ensure they use assessment more effectively to plan children's next steps in learning, with the right level of difficulty.
- Senior leaders should develop further their strategic approaches to checking children's progress. They should continue to develop approaches to using information effectively to measure children's progress from P1 to P7.
- In the nursery, continue to provide high quality early learning experiences.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) 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 Dunblane Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	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	

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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. Stirling Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Rosalind J. Webster
HM Inspector