

14 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Alva 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.

- The positive, nurturing relationships between practitioners, children and families in the nursery.
- The teamwork of the nursery staff. They work well together and strive to do their very best to ensure all children have a positive early learning and childcare experience.
- The sense of teamwork amongst teachers in the school who are keen to improve their practice through professional learning. They have worked together well to improve classroom environments which is supporting children to learn.
- The effective use of digital technology to support and enrich children's learning in the school. Children have useful opportunities to learn individually and in groups using digital devices. This is building their independent learning skills well.

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

- Improve the strategic leadership and pace of change across the school, nursery and ASD provision. This should engage children, parents, partners and staff fully in school improvement and focus on securing better outcomes for all children.
- In the nursery, a number of recent improvements have been made to the learning environment. Senior leaders and practitioners now need to ensure these changes lead to high quality learning experiences for children.
- Develop a whole school positive relationships policy to create a nurturing climate for learning. This should ensure that all staff promote positive behaviour consistently across the school.
- Ensure all children receive the right level of support and challenge to meet their learning needs.
- Continue to develop approaches to teaching, learning and assessment to increase the pace of learning and raise attainment for all children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Alva Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
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?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Clackmannanshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Clackmannanshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Helen Mulholland
HM Inspector