

19 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sciennes Primary School and St Leonard's Nursery School. 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.

- Children across the school and nursery are enthusiastic learners. They are keen to develop further their skills and knowledge across the curriculum.
- Staff in both the school and nursery work well together and have created a supportive and collaborative culture within their teams.
- The high quality of the outdoor environment in the nursery is supporting children to explore, investigate and make very good progress in their learning.
- Children in the school make good progress in their learning and have high levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy.

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

- Improve approaches to assessing and tracking children's progress in literacy and numeracy. This will help to ensure that planning for future learning is fully matched to children's needs and includes appropriate challenge.
- Develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching. This will support senior leaders and teachers to build on current examples of effective practice and provide greater consistency across the school.
- Offer well-planned opportunities for children across the school to take on a range of meaningful leadership roles that support school improvement. This will provide an important context for children to achieve and enable them to develop skills for learning, life and work.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Sciennes Primary School and St Leonard's Nursery School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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. The City of Edinburgh Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

M. A. Speirs  
HM Inspector