

5 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited St Francis Xavier's RC 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 outstanding leadership of the headteacher resulting in a school where staff and children enjoy learning together. She is ably supported by a very effective deputy headteacher. Together they have created a strong staff team where staff and children are motivated to learn in a supportive, nurturing environment.
- Confident well behaved children who are enthusiastic about their learning and proud of their school.
- The strong approaches to developing staff skills and confidence through quality professional learning. Staff are also encouraged to undertake further study and lead developments across the school and cluster of schools. This is resulting in high quality teaching and learning in most lessons across the school.
- The highly effective TP room is a popular resource used by all children to support their social and emotional development. As a result almost all children are very settled and engaged in the learning.
- Staff across the school provide a range of highly effective support to help children who have barriers to learning achieve. As a result, children who experience challenges in their learning are making very good progress towards their targets.
- Staff have effective arrangements in place to plan learning, teaching and assessment across all curricular areas. There are effective approaches to monitor and track children's progress in their learning. As a result attainment across the curriculum is very good.

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

- Continue to ensure the examples of high quality learning and teaching are shared across the school.
- Continue to build on work already begun to improve attainment in writing.
- The nursery practitioners should work together as a team, involving children, parents and the community to develop the improvement priorities for the nursery.

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 St Francis Xavier's RC Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	excellent
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	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/falkirk/5743125>

and the [Care Inspectorate website](#)

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

Sadie Cushley
HM Inspector

Jane Lynch
Care Inspector