

26 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Riverside Primary School and nursery class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's success and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher which ensures that Riverside Primary School works as one strong community serving to do the very best for all the children. Staff have high expectations of themselves and children and this contributes strongly to a climate of aspiration and ambition.
- Across the school children are motivated, engaged and actively involved in their learning and improving the work of the school. They work very well with their teachers and each other to evaluate their own progress and identify their next steps for improvement. They provide strong support for each other across this inclusive school community.
- The values of respect, fairness, honesty and kindness are completely embedded with integrity and authenticity across the life and work of the school. Staff and partners consistently and persistently apply positive approaches to Getting it Right for Every Child. As a result, they have very successfully created a community where the children themselves are very often the key leaders of ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion within their school.
- The very successful approaches to motivating children to have a love of reading through engaging learning and teaching and the development of the inspiring library. Staff and children work effectively with members of the community to ensure the library can also be used by members of the community to support inter-generational reading.
- The shared professional learning of practitioners in the nursery. This is leading to outstanding learning and teaching which is supporting children to make excellent progress.
- The inclusive and respectful approach to Gaelic developed by the headteacher as an important feature of the school.
- The outstanding provision made for children with autism.
- The key focus which the school places on embedding the skills for learning, life and work creatively into teaching and learning at all stages. Children show high levels of understanding, maturity and ambition when speaking about their learning linked to these skills. They recognise this prepares them well for the world of work.

- The development of children's skills through a wide range of out-of-class activities and leadership opportunities.

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

- Continue to implement developments identified in the school improvement plan. This includes plans to develop further approaches to moderation and to raise attainment, particularly in numeracy and writing.
- Continue to build on the successes of Gaelic across the school. This includes embedding further national advice on immersion for 3-12 Gaelic Medium Education.

**Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school.** You can find these **quality** indicators in the publication *How good is our school? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*<sup>1</sup>. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland’s evaluations for Riverside Primary School and Nursery Class

### Primary stages

<b>Leadership of Change</b>	<b>excellent</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>excellent</b>

### Nursery class

<b>Leadership of Change</b>	<b>excellent</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>excellent</b>
<b>Securing children’s progress</b>	<b>excellent</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/stirling/5725429>

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<sup>1</sup> *How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

## 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.

Carol McDonald  
HM Inspector

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