

17 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Joseph's RC 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, children are motivated to learn in a highly inclusive and diverse learning environment. In the school, this is underpinned by the strong Catholic ethos where every child is supported to make very good progress in their learning.
- The headteacher's highly-effective leadership supports staff well to improve the consistency of quality learning and teaching across the school and nursery. Together with senior leaders, staff are working well together to consider carefully the best approaches to improve learners' experiences.
- Senior leaders are rigorous in monitoring the progress of children's literacy and numeracy attainment across the school. They use assessment information well to identify gaps in children's learning and inform well-judged approaches to support children effectively. As a result, most children attain very well.

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

- Children should have a greater role in setting and reviewing quality targets to improve their learning. They need to use these targets regularly to reflect on their learning and measure the progress they make across all curriculum areas.
- Staff should provide increased levels of challenge to children across all stages of the school and nursery who are capable of making greater progress in their learning.

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 St Joseph's RC School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and review | 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. Aberdeen City Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Patricia Cameron
HM Inspector