

4 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Blacklands Primary School and Early Years 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.

- Children in the school and early years class are happy, confident and responsible. They are proud to be members of the Blacklands community. All children benefit from warm, nurturing relationships with staff and each other. As a result, children are calm, settled and feel safe.
- The headteacher provides clear leadership and strong direction to the staff team. All staff in the school and early years class evaluate their practice on a very regular basis. They feel empowered to lead improvements and activities. This results in a very strong sense of staff teamwork and has a positive impact on children's experiences.
- Staff in the school and early years class deliver a very effective range of interventions and opportunities to support children's emotional and social wellbeing. They know the children's needs very well and use highly appropriate strategies and resources to help them become more ready to learn.
- In the early years class, children engage very well in their learning. They are making very good progress in their learning and development.

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

- In the school, all staff should work together to ensure there is a consistently high quality of learning and teaching. They should continue to develop approaches to tracking and monitoring of children's progress.
- In the school and early years class, all staff should continue to develop approaches to planning children's learning. All staff should ensure children experience progression, support and challenge in their learning across all curriculum areas.
- The headteacher and all staff need to continue to work closely with children and families to improve children's attendance at school.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Blacklands Primary School and Early Years Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</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>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</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:

[Blacklands Primary School | Inspection Report | 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. North Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Katharine Crombie  
HM Inspector