

24 April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

In January 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Slamannan Primary School and Heathrigg 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.

- Friendly children who are eager to learn and ready to take more responsibility for their own learning.
- Staff in the nursery and primary school who work well as teams. They are keen to engage in the process of change and improvement to secure positive outcomes for all children.
- The focus on providing opportunities for and recognising participation in wider achievements which is helping to increase children's confidence and self-esteem.

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

- Develop more effective strategic leadership and self-evaluation approaches which lead to improved outcomes for all children across the nursery and primary school. This should include a focus on continuing to develop effective partnerships, with parents and the local community, which will enhance and support children's learning.
- Improve learning and teaching across the school, ensuring an appropriate level of pace, challenge and differentiation. Children should be given opportunities to lead their own learning and be more involved in evaluating their own progress and next steps.
- Review the approaches that support children's learning across the school. In doing this, the school needs to improve the planning of learning, teaching and assessment for children requiring additional support in their learning.
- Raise attainment for all children. Approaches to raising attainment should include making effective use of relevant data, and robust tracking and monitoring of children's progress in learning and achievement.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Slamannan Primary School and Heathrigg Nursery School

Quality indicators primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory

Descriptions of the evaluations are available from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#), [Appendix 3: The six-point scale](#).

Quality indicators nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory

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 will be available on the Education Scotland website for Slamannan Primary School at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/falkirk/5744822> and Heathrigg Primary School at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/falkirk/5759013>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Falkirk Council regarding the

school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Falkirk Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Dennise Sommerville
HM Inspector