

28 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Patrick'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 and nursery's work.

- A calm, welcoming and inclusive ethos that creates a positive environment for learning across the school and nursery. This is underpinned by the school motto 'one big family, one great school'. All staff organise learning environments very well. Children and staff feel very proud of their school and nursery.
- The embedded use of digital technology to support learning and teaching. Children across the school use a range of tools and platforms confidently to enhance their learning across the curriculum, and to develop their digital skills.
- The quality of children's experiences in the nursery. Staff in the nursery have developed their practice and developed an effective shared approach. This is particularly successful in the outdoor area and play environment.
- The approaches to monitoring children's progress in learning across the school. Senior leaders have established well considered approaches to track children's progress in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.
- The nurturing approach of the staff in the enhanced provision. Senior leaders and staff ensure that all children meet their full potential. They provide valuable structure and routine for children who require it and meet the needs of all learners well through a personalised approach.

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

- Continue to share practice to develop consistent approaches of learning and teaching across the school. Staff should support children to have a clearer understanding of what they need to do to be successful and take increased responsibility for their learning.
- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy, particularly in writing. Staff should ensure that they plan learning experiences that provide all children with the right level of support and challenge.
- In the nursery, staff should continue to develop how they check children's progress in their learning and clearly identify next steps.

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 Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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	good
Securing children's progress	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. Falkirk Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Simon Gallon
HM Inspector