

22 August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Tarbat Old Primary School and Nursery. 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.

- The acting headteacher has built quickly strong relationships across the school community. She has a clear aspirational vision for the school and nursery, and this is beginning to lead to improvement.
- There is a strong sense of community across the school and nursery. Staff and children are kind and respectful of each other. This creates a warm, inclusive learning environment.
- Teachers provide a range of learning experiences which engage children well. They support children to be active participants in their learning indoors and outdoors.

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

- Across the school and nursery, develop leadership opportunities for all staff and children.
- Improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the nursery. In doing so, it will be important for all staff to have a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching.
- Develop further approaches to checking children's progress across the nursery and school to raise attainment of all children.
- Across the school and nursery, staff should develop further the planning of learning experiences across all areas of the curriculum to ensure all children build on their prior learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Tarbat Old Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	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 (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Find an inspection report | Education Scotland](#)

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 The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within a year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland 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.

Katharine Crombie
HM Inspector