

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited St Agatha'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 work.

- The headteacher, staff and nursery practitioners have established a caring and nurturing ethos throughout the nursery and primary stages, where children's wellbeing is central to the work of the school.
- Nursery practitioners deliver quality learning experiences which support children to be motivated and engaged in their learning and play.
- Children are increasingly confident to give their views and participate in school life. This contributes to children having a strong sense of belonging to their school and nursery.
- Senior leaders are developing a culture of professional learning across the school team. There are strong relationships and partnerships across the school community supporting collaborative working.

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

- Senior leaders should develop further their approaches to prioritising and directing improvements to ensure all children reach their full potential.
- Together with staff, senior leaders need to continue to develop and ensure greater consistency in the quality of learning and teaching across the primary stages to enable all children to make the best possible progress.
- Senior leaders and teachers need to continue to improve approaches to planning and assessment. This should include developing, as a staff, a shared understanding of standards and expectations through moderation.
- With staff, senior leaders need to continue to develop the curriculum at the primary stages to ensure children's learning experiences are relevant, motivating and build on what they already know.

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 St Agatha's RC Primary School and Nursery Class

| Quality indicators for the primary stages | Evaluation |
|--|---------------------|
| Leadership of change | satisfactory |
| Learning, teaching and assessment | satisfactory |
| Raising attainment and achievement | satisfactory |
| 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 for the nursery class | Evaluation |
|--|------------------|
| Leadership of change | good |
| Learning, teaching and assessment | very good |
| Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion | very 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 | |

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

| Care Inspectorate standards | Grade |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Quality of care and support | very good |
| Quality of staffing | very good |

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and one recommendation. From this, the recommendations has been met. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4424> .

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. Fife Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Lisa Marie McDonnell
HM Inspector

Sandra Cowe
Care Inspector