

4 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sidlaw View Primary 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.

- Staff are committed to professional learning in order to improve how they meet children's needs. This includes learning about nurturing approaches.
- The learning experiences of the youngest children have been enhanced through good quality play-based learning.
- The school has developed structured approaches to improve the teaching of reading and numeracy. These are beginning to have a positive effect on children's experiences.

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

- Senior leaders need to demonstrate stronger leadership which prioritises areas of school improvement in a well-judged and focussed way. They also need to raise expectations and aspirations amongst staff and children throughout the school.
- All staff need to work together more effectively to ensure that learning, teaching and assessment is of a consistently high quality to raise attainment.
- Develop the curriculum to ensure that children can build on their learning as they move through the school and have relevant motivating experiences.
- As a matter of priority, ensure that all children's needs are met. Staff should now develop approaches to improving wellbeing, inclusion and equality.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Sidlaw View Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/dundee-city/5329221>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we believe that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Dundee City Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within six months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Dundee City 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.

Celia McArthur
 HM Inspector