

2 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Johnstonebridge 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.

- The warm, friendly, welcoming ethos with highly supportive and positive relationships. Children's knowledge about their wellbeing helps them to understand and apply a range of strategies if they are faced with challenges.
- Pupil voice is valued by the staff and the wider community. Children are involved fully in decision making about the life and work of the school.
- Children make very good progress in listening and talking skills. They talk confidently about their learning and can apply critical thinking across many areas of the curriculum.
- The teamwork of all staff and their focus on improving children's experiences. Staff use creative contexts, including the local environment for learning very well.
- The headteacher's leadership and approach to managing change with a focus on equity and wellbeing.

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

- Raise attainment and ensure that children make very good progress in numeracy and maths. Provide opportunities for children to apply their numeracy skills across all areas of their learning.
- Raise further children's attainment in literacy. Develop a culture of reading for pleasure and enjoyment with more opportunities to write high quality pieces of writing across a range of real life contexts.

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 Johnstonebridge Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
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/dumfries-and-galloway/5947626>

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

Elizabeth C Montgomery
 HM Inspector