

30 October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Palladius 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.

- Positive relationships and a purposeful climate for learning. Children, staff, parents and partners work well together in a supportive and nurturing environment, with a clear focus on meeting the needs of every individual child.
- The positive impact of staff teamwork on children's learning. Teachers, support staff and partners collaborate closely and effectively, to provide a broad curriculum and a range of experiences which enhance children's learning and achievement.
- Highly effective leadership. The headteacher provides a very clear sense of direction for the school, setting a tone of high expectations. Increasingly, leadership is being shared across the new staff team, and there are strong examples of children leading specific activities.

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

- As a key to improving children's learning overall, the school should take further steps to strengthen children's listening and talking skills. It will be important that these skills are developed across curricular areas, and that children develop an increased capacity to talk about their learning, based on high quality feedback from staff.
- The school should continue to enhance staff's professional skills, with a clear focus on the quality of learning, teaching and assessment. Building on existing strengths, staff should continue to refine the accuracy with which they assess children's attainment, including in respect of achievement of a Curriculum for Excellence level.
- As the school undertakes the planned review of its vision, values and aims, staff should involve parents and partners closely. The school should explore how its partners might contribute more fully to its efforts to raise children's attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 St Palladius Primary School

Quality indicators	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	

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/north-ayrshire/8211027>

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

Bill Geddes
HM Inspector