

24 April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We are trying out some new approaches to inspection. You can find out about our engagement with stakeholders and the approaches we are trying out as a result on our website: [Future approaches to inspection and review](#). The inspection of your child's school was carried out using one of our new approaches.

In January 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited your child's school for a total of two days. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate aspects of the quality of leadership and children's achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The headteacher's clear direction and leadership, particularly in developing effective partnership working. This has enabled her to develop a nurturing school and nursery community successfully, in the short time since the school opened.
- All staff have developed strong relationships with children, parents and the wider community, creating a welcoming ethos where all children feel valued, and are encouraged to do their best.
- The nursery environment promotes children's curiosity, independence and problem solving skills well. Skilled practitioners who work effectively as a team and are reflective about their practice.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from Midlothian Council.

- Continue to engage all stakeholders systematically in decisions affecting them and in identifying improvement priorities for the school and the nursery class.
- Ensure that improvements are enabling all children to build on what they already know and supporting them to make the best possible progress in literacy and English, and in numeracy and mathematics.
- As planned, improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment across the school to ensure consistently high quality experiences for all children. The school and nursery should continue to develop its tracking and monitoring of children's progress, to raise attainment and achievement for all children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland’s evaluations for Bilston Primary School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Self-evaluation for self-improvement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition)</a> , <a href="#">Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a> .	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Self-evaluation for self-improvement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children’s progress</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

This letter and a more detailed document called the Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/midlothian/1003380>.

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

Eleanor MacGregor  
Managing Inspector