

31 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Joseph's Primary School and Family Learning Centre. 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.

- Children and staff respect and value each other. There are positive and nurturing relationships across the school and nursery. Children are motivated, engage well in their learning and are proud of their school community.
- In the school, led very effectively by the acting headteacher, staff have high expectations for children. They plan activities well which improves children's understanding and helps them to talk confidently about their learning.
- In the nursery, staff provide high-quality experiences and a stimulating environment that supports children to make very good progress in their learning.

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

- As planned, continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy across the primary stages, particularly for children who require additional support with their learning.
- Teachers should continue to work with each other, and colleagues in other schools, to develop a better understanding of national standards.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Joseph's Primary School and Family Learning Centre

Quality indicators for the primary school	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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Securing children's progress	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | Education Scotland](#)

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

Gillian Frew
HM Inspector