

22 August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Ninian's Primary School and Nursery. 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 and nursery's work:

- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher, supported by her highly-effective senior leaders. Together they promote leadership across the school and nursery very effectively. As a result, staff and children feel empowered and highly motivated to lead change and have a strong voice in the life of the school.
- Highly effective practitioners in the nursery, who work very well together as a team. They have a strong focus on the continuous improvement of the nursery and helping all children to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- Children who, as a result of the high-quality teaching and learning experiences and environments provided by staff, are eager and excited to learn. Teachers and practitioners keenly and continually reflect, review and develop their own practice through very appropriate professional learning.
- All staff's understanding of inclusive practices, specifically around planning and delivery of purposeful and realistic experiences for children, including those with additional support needs. This includes creative and innovative support for their families.
- Well-developed, extensive approaches for reviewing the work of the school and nursery, and for checking the progress of children's achievements and attainment. These processes allow teachers and practitioners to identify gaps effectively and plan responsive interventions for identified individual and groups of children.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to children leading their own learning and ensure appropriate challenge in learning for all children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Ninian's Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	excellent
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=4709>

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

Frances E. Graham
HM Inspector