

29 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Blacklaw 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 strong, positive relationships evident across the school. The mutual trust and respect demonstrated by both staff and children create a learning environment that is welcoming, nurturing and caring. This enables children to thrive.
- The clear leadership and direction provided by the headteacher. The headteacher is ably supported by the whole staff team who contribute to school improvement through distributed leadership roles. This strength of teamwork is successfully enabling an accelerated pace of change.
- The approaches used by staff to meet children's learning and wellbeing needs through appropriate targeted interventions and support. Teachers and support staff work together to provide effective support to children who require it. This leads to improved outcomes for children.
- Children's high-level engagement in a wide range of sporting activities. Almost all children benefit from regular exercise and have opportunities to participate in clubs beyond the school day. Children and staff are extremely proud to be a 'sporty school'.

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

- Strengthen approaches to planning, ensuring assessment is embedded within it. This should include planning that links different areas of the curriculum together to ensure clear progression in learning across all curriculum areas.
- Continue to strengthen staff confidence in their use of data to accurately inform school improvement and the raising of attainment.
- Continue to develop opportunities for parents to be more fully involved as partners in their child's learning and in school improvement.
- Extend further the leadership role of children in school improvement.

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 Blacklaw Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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:
[Blacklaw Primary School | Inspection Report | 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. South Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Pamela Adamson
HM Inspector