

20 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mary's 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.

- Friendly and polite children who are proud of their school. They demonstrate a very positive attitude to learning.
- The leadership of the headteacher and principal teacher who work well together to lead improvements across the school.
- The headteacher, principal teacher and staff team who have created a calm, nurturing and purposeful learning environment. They work together well as a team to support children to make good progress in their learning.
- Strategic approaches to assessment and the effective use of data which help staff to have a clear understanding of each child's strengths and next steps in learning.

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

- Develop approaches which increase children's understanding of how they learn. Children need to be supported to understand the skills they are developing and how they relate to learning, work and life.
- Develop further opportunities for staff to work with colleagues across the school and beyond. This will support them to make robust and reliable judgements about children's progress.
- Continue to maintain a sharp focus on raising the attainment and achievement for all children.

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 Mary's 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/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page//?id=4661>

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

Jackie Maley
HM Inspector