

19 November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Bellsbank Primary School and Early Childhood 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.

- The highly effective partnership working with parents. This is empowering them to become more engaged in their child's learning.
- The caring and nurturing ethos, which supports children to feel safe and secure.
- The targeted work to support children's literacy and communication skills in the Early Childhood Centre.

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

- Senior leaders need to provide clear, strategic leadership and direction. Informed by improved approaches to self-evaluation, school improvement planning needs to lead to improved outcomes for all children.
- Strengthen the curriculum through the provision of clear progression frameworks, supported by a refreshed curriculum rationale.
- Senior leaders need to ensure that all learners experience high quality learning, teaching and assessment, with appropriate levels of pace and challenge for all children.
- Raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Bellsbank Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</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>	

Here are the Care Inspectorate’s gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	adequate
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	good

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had one requirement and four recommendations. From these, one requirement and two recommendations have been met. Outstanding issues relating to CI to provide details are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and two recommendations.

### Recommendations

- Staff should enable and support children to plan and lead their own learning and provide meaningful experiences which motivate them and have fun playing and learning.  
Health and Social Care Standards – 2.27: As a child, I can direct my own play and act in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity.
- Management should progress with monitoring the work of staff and the service as a whole.  
Health and Social Care Standards 4.23: I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed.

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=1632>

### What happens next?

We will ask East Ayrshire Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within one year of the publication of this letter. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve another inspection visit. East Ayrshire Council will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with East Ayrshire Council.

Pamela Adamson  
HM Inspector

Mags Milloy  
Care Inspector