

9 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Helen'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.

- Strong Catholic spiritual and community approach, led by the headteacher. This is having a positive impact on the environment for learning.
- Almost all children are very keen and enthusiastic learners. They have positive relationships with staff and with each other.
- The teamwork of senior leaders, teachers and support staff. There is a whole school collaborative approach and desire by staff to build a community of learners.
- All staff's deep pastoral knowledge and understanding of children and their families.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from East Dunbartonshire Council.

- Continue to increase the pace and challenge appropriate for all learners. In particular, encourage the most able to achieve as well as possible through consistently high quality teaching approaches.
- Continue to empower children to further demonstrate and develop their leadership capabilities within classes and across the school.

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 Helen'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=4556>

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

Ken McAra
 HM Inspector