

23 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Downfield Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

Downfield Primary School nursery class was inspected by Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore we have agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Senior leaders and staff work effectively to create a caring and welcoming environment across the school. This is resulting in a calm ethos for children to be ready to learn.
- Friendly, motivated children who are keen to discuss their learning. They enjoy working with each other and are keen to lead aspects of the wider life of the school.
- Staff's effective work to develop the school's approaches to nurture and inclusion. Together they provide targeted and universal nurturing provision, which is increasing significantly children's readiness to learn, and is improving wellbeing outcomes and attendance.

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

- Continue to raise the attainment of all children at each stage across the school.
- Continue to improve the quality of teaching across the school.
- Develop the curriculum together with parents and partners, to reflect better the high expectations for children's progress in all areas of their learning.
- Strengthen approaches to leading and monitoring change. This will help senior leaders and staff to develop important school improvement priorities at an improved pace.

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 Downfield Primary School.

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | 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. Dundee City Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

JohnPaul Cassidy
HM Inspector