

17 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Deanburn Primary School, Enhanced Provision and Nursery Class. 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.

- Children who are polite, friendly, and show a great pride in their school.
- Effective teamwork among staff and their willingness to develop professional knowledge. Staff feel empowered to lead areas requiring development across the school and this is leading to more positive experiences and is engaging children in more active learning opportunities.
- Opportunities for children in the enhanced provision to learn in real life contexts such as community projects including Café Connect and outdoor learning. Children form positive relationships, improve their self-esteem, develop a sense of self-worth and skills for life and work.

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

- There is a need for senior leaders to provide staff with clearer strategic guidance to support the development of a more focussed and ambitious approach to change, leading to improvements for all learners.
- Senior leaders should address the key priorities in the nursery class, particularly the need to consistently monitor improvements in practice to ensure progress for all children.
- Staff across the school and enhanced provision should review and make improvements to the curriculum to ensure that all children receive their entitlement within the broad general education.
- In the enhanced provision, senior leaders should support staff to improve confidence in planning learning and evidencing children's progress within the broad general education.
- Staff should continue to develop strategies in raising attainment in literacy and numeracy with a particular focus on writing.

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 Deanburn Primary School, Enhanced Provision and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</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>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 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	adequate
Quality of environment	adequate

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

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and three recommendations.

#### Recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** The provider should ensure that staff keep documented information about the progress of children's development and learning. This could include:

- staff being supported to understand how they can better capture and support children's individual significant learning through effective use of observations
- developing an understanding of the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators and Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
- next steps in children's learning being used to inform future planning, which will support children to make progress in their learning
- staff tracking children's individual progress more effectively
- all records dated to show clear progression.

This will strengthen the planning and documentation of children's progression and achievements.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "I am supported to achieve my potential in education and employment if this is right for me" (HSCS 1.27).

**Recommendation 2:** The provider should support children's continued health, wellbeing and safety by updating information held on children in their 'Personal Health Review' at least every six months or sooner if needed.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that "My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices" (HSCS 1.15).

**Recommendation 3:** The provider should put an effective system in place to monitor, evaluate and review the environment, to ensure it is an enabling environment to support play and learning. This could include:

- tidying and organising areas and displaying resources attractively, to invite children’s curiosity and interest
- creating a homely environment, by introducing soft furnishing, low lighting and a comfortable adult chair to allow children to be comforted in a relaxing environment
- introducing more varied and challenging resources to increase opportunities for children to engage in rich learning experiences.

This will create a motivating environment to maximise effective learning. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that “I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment” (HSCS 5.22).

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=2329> .

### What happens next?

We will ask Falkirk Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within nine months 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. Falkirk 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 Falkirk Council.

Elizabeth Paterson  
Managing Inspector

Lucy Paulin  
Care Inspector