

27 August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Hilary's Primary School 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.

- The strong leadership of the headteacher. Along with senior leaders and staff across the school and nursery class, she has instilled an ethos of empowerment where staff at all levels are encouraged to lead aspects of whole school improvement. This is having a positive impact on outcomes for children.
- An energetic group of staff who are passionate about improving outcomes for children. They collaborate regularly with each other to improve the experiences for all children. Across the school and nursery, staff work increasingly as a strong, committed team to achieve success in embedding priorities identified for whole school improvement.
- Happy, friendly and well-behaved children who enjoy talking about their learning as appropriate to their stage of learning and development. They enjoy a range of leadership opportunities more widely across the school and are proud learners of the St Hilary's school 'family'.
- Senior leaders and staff have been working with partners, locally and nationally to develop key aspects of the school's approaches to nurture. Commendably, this work has attracted interest from partner agencies and children are benefiting significantly from the school's effective practice in nurture.

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

- Continue as planned to work collaboratively across the school and nursery class, local learning community and more widely. This will help to develop further strategies and approaches to improve the quality of teaching across all stages and raise the attainment of all children.
- Continue as planned to build the key skills for learning, life and work that children are developing, into whole school tracking and monitoring procedures of children's overall progress. This will allow children to make connections across their learning more readily and identify progress that they are making.
- Continue as planned to develop the environment across all aspects of the nursery class. This will help children to improve key skills in literacy and numeracy through the development of contexts for learning through play. This will also provide increased opportunities for children to develop further their skills of creativity.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) 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 St Hilary's Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: 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/inspection-reports/south-lanarkshire/8532028>

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. South Lanarkshire 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