

11 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St. Mark's Primary School in East Renfrewshire Council. 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 headteacher and other senior leaders, in collaboration with partners, have established and developed a strong and caring community of learning and faith. This is supported by a clear vision, values and aims which are embedded into the life of the school and understood and articulated by children.
- The school places much importance on the professional learning of staff. This includes providing staff with leadership opportunities to enable them to contribute fully to the life of the school. This is beginning to lead to improved experiences and outcomes for children.
- The school has been successful in using a wide range of strategies to encourage parental engagement and to support the needs of families sensitively.
- Children are achieving well in the school and are benefitting from the many varied experiences which staff and partners are providing for them.

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

- Improve the consistency of high-quality learning and teaching to ensure that all children are given the best opportunity to achieve.
- Extend the range of approaches to assessment so that children can apply and demonstrate their learning more effectively.
- Use self-evaluation evidence more systematically throughout the school to drive forward improvement which leads to better outcomes, including raised attainment, for children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the schools 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 St Mark's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	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](#).

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/east-renfrewshire/8621225>.

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

Celia McArthur
HM Inspector