

26 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Valley 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.

- Polite, well-behaved children who show resilience and are eager to learn.
- A nurturing and caring ethos characterised by positive relationships between teachers and children which support an inclusive learning climate across the school, additional support classes (ASC) and nursery classes.
- The staff team in the nursery who ensure children receive high quality learning experiences.

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

- There is a need to provide clearer strategic leadership and guidance, to develop a more focused and ambitious approach to change which leads to improvements for all learners. In doing this, the senior leadership team and staff need to work together to ensure effective collaboration and teamwork.
- Develop a clear strategy for learning, teaching and assessment to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school.
- Review and refresh the curriculum to ensure depth, challenge and application and improve children's skills and knowledge across all areas of the curriculum.

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 Valley Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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/fife/5404428>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Fife Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Fife Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Elizabeth Paterson
HM Inspector