

9 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sacred Heart 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.

- Steps taken by the acting headteacher to refocus the work of the school on raising attainment and improving learning and teaching.
- Children who behave well and are pleasant, articulate and keen to learn. They respond well to the Sacred Heart awards at assembly.
- The nurturing approach of practitioners in the nursery. The nursery team support children to feel secure, confident and increasingly independent in their learning.

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

- Staff should work together to ensure all children experience high quality learning and teaching. In doing so, staff should improve the planning of learning, teaching and assessment and ensure all children receive their entitlement to a broad curriculum.
- Teachers should continue to work together to raise attainment. They should increase their understanding of national expectations about what children can achieve across all areas of the curriculum.
- Staff should improve approaches to how they monitor children's progress in learning. They should use information on children's progress more effectively to raise attainment and improve how children's needs are met across the school and nursery.
- Staff should improve the quality of learning through play across the early level.

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 Sacred Heart Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>weak</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>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</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>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

### 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 Midlothian 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 Midlothian 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.

Sadie Cushley  
HM Inspector