

5 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Fernhill School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers, children and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The headteacher demonstrates highly effective and thoughtful leadership for the school community. He is supported strongly by the senior leadership team. The shared vision and values provide a strong sense of direction and purpose for all at Fernhill School. The caring and welcoming family ethos supports children and young people to develop as confident and successful learners.
- Almost all young people achieve very well in National Qualifications and other accredited awards. Standards of learning and teaching are of high quality across the primary and secondary stages. Staff review the school's curriculum continuously to meet the needs and aspirations of all learners.
- There is a positive culture of ambition and empowerment. School governors, senior leaders and all staff take forward changes which help to ensure positive outcomes for children and young people.
- Children and young people play an active role in their school, parish and local community. They learn important skills for life and work, including through their leadership and participation in charity work. They demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability and giving service to others.
- Staff work with a variety of partners in creative, flexible and imaginative ways that enrich children and young people's learning experiences. Families provide very high-quality support for the school through the work of the Parent Council and the Parent Teacher Association.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher.

- Building on the existing enthusiasm and collaboration among staff, continue to share good practice in learning, teaching and assessment across the nursery and school.
- Continue with plans to use data in more sophisticated ways to ensure that all learners across the nursery and school are making the best possible progress.

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 Fernhill School and Nursery Class

| Quality indicators for the school  | Evaluation       |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><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>good</b> |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>good</b> |
| <b>Securing children's progress</b>  | <b>good</b> |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>good</b> |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><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: [Inspection and Review | Education Scotland](#)

### 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. The school's Board of Governors will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of the school.

Lesley A Allan  
HM Inspector