

23 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2018, HM Inspectors published a letter on St Ronan's Primary School and Nursery Class. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and Scottish Borders Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

Improve the school's strategic leadership and approaches to self-evaluation to ensure consistency in high quality learning, teaching and assessment.

The school, including the nursery, is making good progress in its strategic leadership of change. The headteacher and promoted staff team work effectively together in leading the school's improvement priorities. They have created the conditions where staff feel confident in taking responsibilities and leading change. The headteacher has successfully deployed the senior leadership team to enable them to share their strengths to benefit the school and nursery. The teaching staff team across the school are involved in evaluating the quality of learning and teaching. The nursery team has worked very effectively together to develop and strengthen approaches to self-evaluation. Across the school and nursery teams, confidence has grown through taking an outward look to professional learning. Their commitment to implementing consistent approaches to planning and learning is evident throughout. This increased consistency, is leading to improved pace and progression in children's learning. The school and nursery class, have been successful in improving consistency in high quality learning and teaching. Children are increasingly taking roles of responsibility in the life of the school and for their own learning. Partnerships with parents continues to be an important feature of the school's success. The school continues to be a hub of learning for its community. Parents and partners support developments and ideas through a variety of events. It is important that they also participate regularly in self-evaluation activities and the school's next steps in developing its curriculum.

Raise expectations of what children can achieve through regular professional dialogue linked to moderation and progression in children's learning.

The school and nursery are effective in ensuring children are challenged and engaged in their learning. The improved consistency in high quality learning and teaching is leading to increased pace in children's learning. Children know what they are expected to achieve and respond well to feedback from teachers and their peers about what they need to do to improve. Staff across the school and nursery plan together regularly and share children's progress through professional learning activities that lead to a shared understanding of standards. They are committed to professional learning and to learning from good practice in other schools and nurseries in the local authority and beyond. Overall, the standard and quality of children's achievements is improving and most are making good progress. Teachers and practitioners focus well on the learning needs of individuals and increasingly

use observations and feedback to support what children learn next in numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing. They should continue to meet regularly and build on their confidence about making professional judgements using their information on children's attainment and progress in learning.

Improve the school's use of data to monitor children's progress in Curriculum for Excellence leading to improved attainment for all.

The school and nursery are using effective systems for tracking children's progress. The senior leadership team now has a strategic overview of children's progress in the school and nursery. Regular discussions with senior leaders enables teachers and practitioners to make increasingly confident judgements about the progress children are making. The increased focus on the quality of learning and teaching and monitoring of children's needs is leading to achievements and attainment data being more reliable. The school should take forward its plans to fully implement its recently devised assessment framework.

What happens next?

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. 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. Scottish Borders Council will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Susan Gow
HM Inspector