

1 May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**Westfield Primary School  
West Lothian Council**

In February 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and West Lothian 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 and at other aspects of the school's work, as proposed by the headteacher. 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.

**There is a need to provide clearer strategic leadership and guidance, to develop a more focussed and ambitious approach to change which leads to improvements for all learners. In doing this, the senior leadership team and staff need to increase the pace of change across the school.**

Since the last inspection, the new Acting Headteacher, (AHT) has demonstrated outstanding leadership to bring about necessary improvements within a short timescale. She has effectively driven forward necessary improvements to the nursery class and school. Along with the acting depute headteacher, (ADH) she has put in place much needed systems and processes to facilitate improvement across all aspects of the work of the school whilst securing the commitment of all staff in this process. The revised vision for the school is clearly focussed on improvement for all. The Vision is described as to Succeed, Motivate, Inspire, Learn, and Excel (SMILE). This is readily understood by children, appreciated by parents and staff and well received within the wider school community and is now fully reflective of the ethos of the school.

**Develop a rigorous approach to quality assurance and self-evaluation with staff and parents to secure continuous and well-paced improvement across the school and nursery class.**

The approach to self-evaluation and quality assurance has improved significantly since the last inspection. Using self evaluation information, staff's knowledge, skill and confidence in the self-evaluation process has increased and they now take an active part in the development of the school improvement plan. As a result of strong leadership and direction from the management team staff are now clearer about

national standards and are supported well to help children make progress. Staff have worked well with the leadership team and have showed a commendable commitment to improve the school and nursery class. They have willingly undertaken a range of professional learning opportunities both in school and out of school. The parent council is now engaged in the process of self-evaluation to help the school on its journey of self improvement. Parents we spoke with also commented on the improved environment inside and in the school grounds and appreciated the new initiatives to become more involved in the work of the school and the nursery.

**Improve teaching, learning and assessment to ensure children's learning needs are well met in all areas of the curriculum and that children's learning experiences are of a consistently high quality across the school.**

Almost all children are engaged in their learning. They demonstrate a greater understanding of themselves as learners and are becoming more confident in talking about their individual targets and what they need to do to improve. The AHT recognised the need for staff to be clearer about the key features of high quality learning and teaching. To support this, new guidelines were developed as well as opportunities for professional dialogue. Additionally the AHT and DHT have taught alongside staff to model good practice in approaches to learning and teaching. All staff value these well-considered approaches which help them to continually develop their practice and as a result, improve outcomes for learners. Helpful guides for literacy, numeracy and health wellbeing are ensuring a more consistent approach in delivery of these areas of the curriculum. We have asked the senior leadership team keep this under close review to ensure maximum impact and consistency.

**Improve attainment in literacy and numeracy for all children as a priority.**

Since the last inspection significant work has been undertaken to improve the way assessment of information of children's attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing is gathered, tracked, and analysed. Crucially, staff are now being supported to develop their own skills in using this data. This is supporting them to meet the needs of all children in their classes more effectively. A wide range of interventions have been put in place to support children. This includes the creation of raising attainment groups which is having a very positive impact on children's progress. In literacy and numeracy children are making substantial progress from their prior levels of attainment. Improving the quality of children's writing needs to be a continued focus in all classes. There are also programmes in place to promote positive relationships and wellbeing. As a result of this work and improved approaches to learning and teaching, there is now in place a calmer more productive climate for learning. Overall, there is a stronger picture in respect of children's progress. Most children are on track to achieve appropriate Curriculum for Excellence levels. We can confirm that the school has successfully raised attainment for learners. The senior leadership team and staff agree that they are now in a more positive place and that there is great scope to develop this further.

## **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. West Lothian Council will inform parents and the Area Lead officer for Education Scotland about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Elizabeth Paterson  
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: [complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk) or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.