

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Pencaitland 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.

- The leadership of the headteacher and the positive relationships with staff, children, parents and partners.
- Children who are articulate, motivated, well-behaved and supportive of one another. Their achievements in reading and their enthusiasm in using the school's library. The caring and nurturing ethos in the nursery with a strong focus on children's learning and development.
- Supportive parents in developing the school grounds and the staff's success in encouraging learning outdoors. Children play imaginatively and responsibly together.

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

- Develop shared leadership and collective responsibilities for leading change and improvement across the school and nursery.
- Improve consistency in high quality learning and teaching through outward looking professional learning and sharing of effective practice leading to improved achievements for all children.
- Improve tracking, monitoring and assessing children's progress ensuring increased support and challenge to suit the learning needs of all children.

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 Pencaitland Primary School and Nursery Class

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

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4012>

### 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. East Lothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Susan Gow  
HM Inspector