

14 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Ninian's Episcopal 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.

- Nurturing and inclusive relationships between the staff and the children that are based on mutual respect, understanding and kindness. This results in a positive and warm learning environment where children feel safe and happy.
- The effective teamwork amongst the staff and their capacity for improvement. Staff are keen to develop their individual and collective skills to help improve outcomes for children.
- Supported by staff, children are taking ownership of their own learning. Teachers and practitioners are responsive to children's interests when planning learning.
- The opportunities for children to participate in wider experiences within the local community. Staff work effectively with their partners to enrich children's learning across a range of contexts.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from Perth and Kinross Council.

- To support all children to make progress in their learning, teachers and practitioners should improve approaches to planning, assessment and moderation in the school and nursery. They should ensure that learning is progressive and clearly based on Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) experiences and outcomes. There is a need to develop a shared understanding of what children's progress looks like within and across CfE levels.
- Continue to develop approaches to tracking and monitoring of children's progress. Teachers and practitioners should improve how observations, assessment data and other key information is used to help raise attainment and achievement for all learners.
- Ensure that the nursery team benefits from strong leadership and direction. The nursery class should be included in whole school strategic planning for continuous improvement.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) 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 St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

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 Perth and Kinross 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 Perth and Kinross 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.

Maria A Speirs
HM Inspector