

5 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Francis' 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 headteacher has made a very positive start to leading improvements in learning and teaching and attainment across the school and nursery class. She is ably supported by her senior leadership team.
- The staff team work well together. They show a clear enthusiasm and energy to improve experiences for children. They have created a caring and nurturing environment and strive to build positive relationships with all children and their families.
- Children are very proud of their school. They are polite and welcoming to visitors and enjoy sharing their learning and achievements with others.
- In the nursery, practitioners respond well to children's interests. As a result, children engage well with nursery experiences both indoors and outdoors.

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

- Senior leaders and staff need to develop approaches to planning children's learning in both the school and nursery. This includes improving how they check on children's progress and plan for their next steps in learning.
- All staff should work together to improve approaches to teaching numeracy. This includes how they plan, assess and build on prior learning. Children need more opportunities to revisit previous learning and apply their numeracy knowledge and skills.
- In the school, senior leaders should continue to develop teachers' use of data to drive forward improvements. This includes how they evidence the success of approaches to raise attainment through pupil equity funding.

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 Francis' 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	good
Securing children's progress	good
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:

[St Francis' Primary School | Inspection Report | 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. Inverclyde Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Stuart Cathro
HM Inspector