

28 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Newark Primary School. 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 strong pastoral leadership which creates a nurturing and highly inclusive learning environment for all. Senior leaders and staff understand clearly the needs of the school community and work effectively with partners and parents to improve outcomes for children.
- All staff are keen to develop their skills and knowledge and work successfully as a team to improve their practice. They have worked well together to develop children's understanding of their rights.
- The range of approaches used by staff to help children who need additional support in their learning. These approaches encourage children with additional support needs to engage readily with classroom activities and to be independent learners.
- Children's rich opportunities to experience wider achievements. These are helping children to develop effectively their skills for leadership, learning, life and work.

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

- Senior leaders should work with the whole school community to identify key areas of improvement and carefully monitor the impact of approaches to raising attainment and achievement.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching and ensure all children receive learning that is well matched to their needs.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to work together to raise children's attainment in literacy and numeracy.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Newark Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

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=3824>

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.

M. A. Speirs
 HM Inspector