

27 August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Hilton Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). 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.

- Senior school leaders are providing strong leadership. They are supporting staff to develop greater capacity for improvement and have a clear vision for continuing to improve the school and ELC.
- All staff across the school and ELC work together very effectively and support each other well. They demonstrate a shared commitment to caring for children. They are developing approaches to school improvement which are evidence-based.
- Staff, children and stakeholders provide an inclusive, supportive environment for learning in the school and ELC. All are proud of their school, are happy to be here and embody the school values well.

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

- Practitioners in the ELC should streamline processes for observing children and assessing their learning. This will help them to plan learning effectively and ensure all children make appropriate progress.
- Across the school, staff should continue to develop their use of assessment information to ensure all children experience appropriate pace and challenge in their learning. They should develop more opportunities for children to lead, and take responsibility for, their own learning.
- Teachers should continue to evaluate the impact of interventions on learners to ensure that all children attain to their fullest potential.

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 Hilton Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
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:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5140226>

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

David Drysdale
HM Inspector