

12 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cairneyhill 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 work of the school and nursery.

- The polite, confident and articulate children at Cairneyhill who engage very well in learning. This is helping them to thrive and become successful learners.
- The commitment from the staff in the nursery and school to engage in high quality professional learning and research. This is leading to improvements in learning and teaching which are having a positive impact on attainment in writing across the school.
- The nursery team, who provide high quality early learning and childcare within stimulating environments. Practitioners are nurturing and quick to respond to children's needs. As a result, children are happy, confident, and successful in their learning.
- The highly effective Additional Support Centre team, who know children very well as individuals. They support children's needs through skilful planning to ensure that all children are making very good progress.

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

- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to build on current approaches to planning and assessing learning and teaching. This should include increasing opportunities for children to revisit and extend learning in new and unfamiliar situations, particularly in numeracy.
- Continue to increase opportunities for children to plan and lead learning across the school and nursery.
- As planned, develop further the use of digital technologies across the curriculum in primary classes.

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 Cairneyhill Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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	very good
Securing children's progress	very 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: [Find an 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. Fife Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Nicola Drew
HM Inspector