

27 November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited South Lodge Primary 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.

- Friendly, well-mannered children who are keen to learn.
- The culture of teamwork and support amongst staff.
- The headteacher's success in establishing positive relationships with parents.

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

- There is a need to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy. We have asked staff to evaluate how well the range of initiatives currently in place to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy are leading to improvement.
- Improve learning, teaching and assessment to ensure the needs of all children are met and that they are fully engaged in their learning.
- Staff at the primary stages and in the nursery should improve how they track the progress children are making and use this information to inform plans for children's next steps in learning.
- Further develop the curriculum and how learning is planned to ensure an appropriate pace of learning for all children against national standards.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 South Lodge Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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/5115620>

### 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 The Highland 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 The Highland 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.

Carol Copstick  
HM Inspector