

23 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mark's 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.

- Children who are friendly and caring and who are keen to be involved in the wider life of their school and nursery. They are proud to be learners at St Mark's and are empathetic and supportive towards one another.
- The headteacher and senior leaders actively encourage distributed leadership. This is resulting in more staff being involved in various committees and working parties to bring about whole-school improvement and secure positive outcomes for children.
- Staff who know children well and who promote a nurturing ethos in the primary and nursery classes. Children are well-supported to progress in their learning.

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

- Continue to review leadership roles to manage best the balance of pace and priorities for change and improvement in both the school and nursery class. This includes developing improved approaches to communication with parents and partners so that they can play a fuller, more active part in helping to shape change and improvement.
- Continue to develop the curriculum to ensure all children receive their full entitlement to a Broad General Education linking to appropriate learning pathways.
- In order to continue to improve children's attainment and achievement, staff should work together to ensure children experience consistently high quality learning and teaching. As planned, this includes the development of robust systems to track and monitor children's progress.
- Continue as planned to update policies and approaches to building positive relationships, inclusion and equality across the St Mark's community. Revision of these plans should include the input of all stakeholders and partners from the outset.

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 St Mark's 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>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</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 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>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</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/south-lanarkshire/8457522>

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs time to make necessary improvements. We will ask South Lanarkshire Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within one year of the publication of this letter. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve a joint evaluation visit by HMI and council officers. South Lanarkshire Council will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with South Lanarkshire Council.

JohnPaul Cassidy  
HM Inspector