

21 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Mary Russell 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 positive, supportive and inclusive culture at the school. Children and young people benefit from a calm, welcoming learning environment. Relationships between children and staff are positive and are based on mutual respect.
- The polite, confident children and young people who are happy, motivated and proud of their school.
- Improving children's and young people's wellbeing is a strong feature of the school's work. This is strengthened by effective partnership working with parents and partner agencies.
- The number and range of National Qualifications and wider awards achieved by young people in the senior phase. This is supporting young people to move on into further education, training or employment when they leave school.

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

- Track children's and young people's progress and attainment more effectively. Ensure information on progress across all curriculum areas leads to planned learning at the appropriate level of difficulty.
- Provide more wider achievement opportunities for children in the primary classes.

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

Quality indicators	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	

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=4949>

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

Pamela Adamson
HM Inspector