

6 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mark's Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

St Mark's Primary School nursery class was inspected by the Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore we have agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The school's vision, values and aims, underpinned by the Gospel values, support a positive climate for learning. Children benefit from nurturing and mutually respectful relationships with staff.
- The headteacher and staff's dedication to supporting children and families experiencing financial barriers. They adopt approaches which help children to feel ready and better able to learn and maintain the dignity of families.
- Staff work with partners effectively to offer children a range of achievements and learning opportunities. These help children to develop important skills.

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

- Staff should develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching. This will help improve the consistency of learners' experiences and support children's progress in learning as a result.
- Teachers should continue to develop their use of assessments to measure children's progress and identify their next steps in learning. They should work together and with colleagues from other schools to regularly review and apply national standards confidently.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school.

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 St Mark's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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: [Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and Review](#) | [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. North Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Mr Graham Parry
HM Inspector