

28 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited High Blantyre Primary School, Nursery Class and Supported Classes. 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.

- Across the nursery, primary and supported classes, children are well-mannered, friendly and welcoming of visitors. They are eager to take more responsibility for their own learning.
- Staff know children and families well. They have created inclusive and caring learning environments across the nursery, primary and supported classes. Relationships between children and staff are positive.
- In the nursery, children's engagement in the outdoors, particularly in the forest environment, is developing their creativity and curiosity in learning.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from South Lanarkshire Council. They apply to the nursery, primary and supported classes.

Senior leaders, with staff should:

- review whole-school and distributed leadership roles to empower further all staff and nursery practitioners as leaders, and continue to ensure all children have meaningful opportunities to lead their own learning;
- continue to develop rigour in approaches to self-evaluation to ensure consistent high-quality learning and teaching, leading to raised attainment for all children. This should include an appropriate level of pace and challenge for children's learning;
- develop more effective use of assessment information and moderation which enables teachers to have shared standards and expectations, whilst ensuring all children make the best possible progress; and
- continue to develop a curriculum which meets all children's needs and supports them to develop relevant knowledge and skills across all areas of their learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 High Blantyre Primary School and Nursery Class and Supported Classes

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	adequate
Quality of environment	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and four recommendations. From four recommendations one has been met and three have not been met. Outstanding issues relating to CI to provide details are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and four recommendations.

Recommendations

Recommendation One

Personal plans should be used to identify and plan how the service can best support children's early learning and childcare needs. To achieve this, personal plans should:

- consider the wellbeing indicators
- consider how the service can best support each child's needs
- include child and parents' views
- clearly show children's progress

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state, my personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices (HSCS 1.15).

Recommendation Two

The service should ensure that all staff are aware of individual children's current dietary requirements and preferences and that these are catered for. Information should be updated where required. This contributes to children's health and wellbeing when eating and drinking at nursery.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state, my needs, as agreed in my personal plan, are fully met and my wishes and choices are respected (HSCS 1.23).

Recommendation Three

Children need to be encouraged to make choices and direct their own play and learning. To support this, staff need to be more responsive and spontaneous and not be afraid to let children lead their own learning and play.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state, as a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including using open ended and natural materials (HSCS 1.31).

Recommendation Four

The staff should undertake an audit of the playroom and outdoor space using good practice guidance. Once evaluated they should put a plan in place and improve the use of space and resources to provide a rich learning environment.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state, as a child, I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice (HSCS 4.11).

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=2933>

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

Dennise Sommerville
HM Inspector

Christina Jones
Care Inspector