

26 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mary's Primary 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 welcoming, nurturing and inclusive environment created by the whole school community. The values of happiness, respect, kindness and ambition are underpinned by the Gospel values and are reflected in all aspects of school life. These values support very strong, positive relationships in a learning environment where every child is known well and cared for.
- The highly regarded headteacher's strong strategic leadership of the school. Together with staff, he has worked to create a climate where the school community shares a common vision for improvement and are empowered to drive these improvements.
- The high quality, stimulating learning experiences staff provide for children. Children enjoy learning, engage very well and are developing their skills, as a result.
- The engaging new approaches to the school's curriculum. Children have been instrumental in developing this bespoke and stimulating curriculum with staff and the wider school community.
- The very good progress children are making in literacy and numeracy. High levels of attainment are sustained across the school.

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

- Senior leaders should continue to review and revise how they monitor children's achievements, skills and wellbeing over time and consider these alongside children's attainment.
- Teachers should now assess and track children's progress in all curricular areas. This will help staff and children to understand better their learning and next steps across the full curriculum.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Mary's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. Inverclyde Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Graeme M Brown
HM Inspector