

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Stephen'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.

- Strong Gospel values underpin the school's welcoming, caring and inclusive ethos. The school community demonstrates these well.
- Children who are articulate, well behaved and respectful of each other. They are proud of their school and are keen to learn.
- The acting headteacher and all staff work well together. They develop successfully effective teamwork and are keen to engage in professional learning to improve experiences and outcomes for all children.
- Effective partnerships with parents and the local community enhance the learning experiences and opportunities for all children. These give effective support to the school and all staff and children value this.

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

- Continue to develop the strategic leadership of the school. This will ensure the senior leadership team is able to prioritise and guide improvement that leads to better outcomes for children.
- Senior leaders and staff should develop consistently high quality learning, teaching and assessment approaches. The assessment of children's progress should be central to planning children's learning.
- Continue to develop a curriculum that enables children to improve their knowledge and skills across all curricular areas. Introducing progressive pathways for all curricular areas will enable staff to continue to develop effective tracking systems across the curriculum to monitor children's progress.

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 Stephen's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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	

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=4772>.

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

Lorraine Fisher
 HM Inspector