

23 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Hillhead Primary School and Nursery Class. 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 strength of the headteacher's leadership, and the support of the staff team, have established a culture of respect in a positive nurturing and supportive environment. This includes in the nursery setting where children are supported well by the team of practitioners, who have created a welcoming environment. As a result, children behave well and engage effectively in their learning.
- All teachers know children in their classes very well. Children who require additional support with their learning are supported well with their specific areas of need. Staff ensure that they plan and implement effective interventions in literacy and numeracy to address areas of need which is resulting in improvements children's learning, progress and achievement.
- Senior leaders and staff at the primary stages have been supported by key partners, to establish a strong culture of reading. This has resulted in significant improvements in children's literacy skills.
- In the nursery, children and families are offered individualised settling in arrangements to best meet needs. Arrangements for transition are well planned with key information about children shared well.

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

- Staff should increase the level of challenge for children in the school and in the nursery and encourage and support children to be more aspirational and ambitious for success. This includes continuing to raise attainment, particularly in writing.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to focus on the development of key skills and highlight these more regularly in lessons. This will support children to understand, express and acknowledge their skills and use these in a range of new and unfamiliar situations.
- As planned, practitioners in the nursery should revisit approaches to planning and recording children's learning more regularly to demonstrate children's progress over time.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Hillhead Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	adequate
1.1 Nurturing care and support	good
1.3 Play and learning	adequate
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	good

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, the following areas for improvement have been identified:

1) To support children's learning and development, management should review planning systems to ensure children's experiences are reflective of a child led approach, interests and individual needs.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity. (HSCS 2.27).

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

As a result of the Care Inspectorates findings and evaluations, further scrutiny intervention will be considered to support improvements in the early learning and childcare setting.

Teri McIntosh
HM Inspector

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Care Inspector