

14 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Gledfield 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 positive and caring relationships between staff and children based on mutual respect and kindness. This results in a warm and welcoming learning environment in which children feel safe, valued and happy.
- The clear and supportive leadership of the headteacher. She has offered much needed stability and reassurance to the school community. This enables the school and nursery to begin to move forward with its improvement journey.
- The very effective teamwork in the nursery. Practitioners engage well with professional learning and reflect on their practice. They provide high-quality experiences in response to children's interests. This is impacting positively on children's progress and achievement.

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

- Improve further approaches to self-evaluation to identify and address areas of improvement. All staff should work effectively as a team to continue to improve the work of the school and nursery. They should do this with a continued focus on improving outcomes for all children.
- Improve approaches to learning and teaching to ensure all children experience consistently high-quality learning experiences across the school.
- Review approaches to planning for each curriculum area to ensure children experience progression, breadth and depth in their learning. This will help ensure teachers plan lessons and activities that are well-matched to all children's needs.
- Continue to develop approaches for checking children's progress. Staff should improve how key information is used to help raise attainment and achievement for all.

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 Gledfield Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: 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?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Anne Graham
HM Inspector