

21 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Monica'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.

- Well behaved, courteous children, growing in confidence. Children work well together with classmates and staff, and are articulate in talking about their learning and progress with visitors.
- The school's proactive approach to professional learning, including a focus on using attainment data to inform decisions. Staff have access to high quality information provided by their local authority and partner agencies, and have been supported by an effective collaboration with a university and neighbouring authority.
- Strong, resilient and resourceful leadership from the headteacher. Supported well by promoted staff, the headteacher has achieved important progress in key areas of the school's work. These achievements position the school well for continuing improvements in its performance.

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

- Staff should continue to improve the overall quality of children's learning and attainment. Improvements should include a more stimulating, greater focus on play based approaches for younger children, and more opportunities for children to develop as independent learners and as leaders.
- Senior leaders should continue to encourage all staff to take on aspects of leadership in the school, in line with professional expectations and national standards. Staff should adopt more effective approaches to sharing good practice at all stages, including through peer observation.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Monica's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:  
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/north-lanarkshire/8503621>

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

Bill Geddes  
 HM Inspector