

27 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Calside Primary School and Nursery. 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 very positive and nurturing relationships between staff and children ensure that children feel valued and included.
- Children are articulate, confident and proud of their school, nursery and learning centre. They engage well in their learning and are keen to share their experiences with visitors.
- Senior leaders and staff plan well-considered support for children who require it. This ensures most children make good progress in literacy and numeracy.
- Staff in the nursery have developed an extensive and high-quality outdoor environment. This supports children's learning and engagement very well.

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

- In the school and learning centre, staff should continue to develop their shared understanding of what high-quality learning experiences look like. Teachers should increase the pace of learning and plan for all children to experience learning at the right level of difficulty across the curriculum.
- In the nursery, staff should continue to review their approaches to capturing children's progress in learning. They should improve their use of commentary and questioning to extend children's learning and plan their next steps.

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 Calside Primary School and Nursery

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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	good
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: [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. Dumfries and Galloway Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Gillian Frew
HM Inspector