

30 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Balmerino 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 work of the headteacher and staff to ensure all children are welcome and included in the nursery class and school. Children are happy, settled and feel safe.
- High-quality learning in the outdoors. Children experience learning that is motivating, relevant and meaningful.
- Skilled, creative approaches taken by nursery practitioners. They respond very well to the development needs of all children. All children in the nursery make very good progress in their learning.

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

- The headteacher and staff need to continue to develop approaches to planning, tracking and monitoring children's progress and achievement across the nursery and school. This will support children to make the best possible progress across the curriculum.
- The headteacher needs to develop further strategic approaches to evaluating the work of the school. Working with staff, she should ensure rigorous quality assurance activities support improvement in learning experiences across the school.

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

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</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>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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?

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

Marion Carlton  
HM Inspector