

22 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Coldingham 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 start made by the newly-appointed headteacher in creating a clear sense of direction. There are supportive partnerships with parents and the local community, which offer potential for further enhancement of the school and nursery.
- The effective self-evaluation of practitioners in the nursery, which is leading to positive learning experiences for children. This is well-supported by the principal teacher and input from the local authority.
- Capable, articulate children who are eager to learn and ready to take more responsibility for their own learning. They are keen to contribute their ideas and be further involved in improvement.
- Staff work well as a team to create a supportive and caring ethos across the school community. They know children and families well and show commitment to school improvement and ensuring the needs of all children are met.

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

- Further develop self-evaluation and leadership across the primary school, particularly through the roles of class teachers and the contribution of children. The school should continue to seek the views of all children, staff, parents and partners regularly, and use this information to inform on-going changes in the school.
- Continue to improve learning and teaching across the school and nursery. Staff should increase the pace and level of challenge, to ensure children continue to be motivated and make good progress in their learning. Staff should continue to raise their expectations and aspirations to improve children's attainment and achievement further.
- Continue to develop a curriculum that is relevant to the school's context and supports children to make progress and develop appropriate knowledge and skills. Staff should ensure the effective use and understanding of assessment and tracking of children's progress across all curriculum areas including health and wellbeing.

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 Coldingham Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, three recommendations were made. From these, all recommendations had been met.

As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/scottish-borders/5645425> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#)

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

Dennise Sommerville
HM Inspector

Karen Robertson
Care Inspector