

17 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Gracemount 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 caring and welcoming environment for learning across the school and nursery class. This is improving children's confidence and engagement with their learning and is building a more resilient and focused school community.
- Motivated teams of staff who know the pastoral needs of children and families well. New approaches to relationship and behaviour management are beginning to have a positive impact on children's attitudes towards their learning.
- Well-mannered, friendly children who demonstrate their curiosity as learners and who are keen to be challenged in their learning. They work well together in different learning contexts and are supportive of one another across the school and nursery.

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

- Raise the attainment of children across all stages of the school.
- Improve learning and teaching to ensure children experience consistently high quality learning. In doing so, develop approaches to planning and assessment which take account of the varying needs of all children.
- Take forward plans to monitor, track and analyse the progress, attainment and achievement of all children to ensure their progress in learning.

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

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</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>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</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>	

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

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of staffing	good

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had one requirement and no recommendations. From this, the requirement has been met. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/edinburgh-city/5524423>

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings, we think that the school needs time to make necessary improvements. We will ask The City of Edinburgh Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within one year of the publication of this letter. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve a joint evaluation visit by HMI and council officers. Officers from The City of Edinburgh Council will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with the local authority.

JohnPaul Cassidy  
HM Inspector

Sarah McGahey  
Care Inspector