

1 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Howden St. Andrew's 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 inclusive and nurturing ethos within the school and nursery. Senior leaders and staff demonstrate high levels of care and respect in their interactions with children and prioritise wellbeing in all aspects of their work.
- The friendly, polite and welcoming children. Children are very proud of their school and nursery. They are keen to welcome visitors and share their experiences.
- The positive and supportive staff team. Staff in both the school and nursery collaborate effectively and are committed to improving outcomes for children. They encourage and support each other, sharing practice to promote improvement.
- The active approaches to learning in the primary stages. Teachers offer children opportunities to investigate, explore and collaborate across the curriculum.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from West Lothian Council.

- All staff, supported by senior leaders, should ensure that all children in the school and nursery receive learning at the right level of difficulty. This will help children to make the best possible progress.
- Teachers and senior leaders should ensure that planning for learning, teaching and assessment meets the needs of all children, including those who require additional support. This will support children to engage more fully in their learning and raise attainment.
- Senior leaders should ensure that they identify clearly the attainment gaps within the school and track carefully the success of approaches to addressing these gaps. This will help them to identify more effectively the overall impact on outcomes for children.

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 Howden St Andrew's Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
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:

[Howden St Andrew's Primary School | Inspection Report | 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. West Lothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

M. A. Speirs
HM Inspector