

11 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Kirkshaws 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 strong, positive relationships between staff, children and families in the school and nursery class. This is helping to create calm, nurturing learning environments which supports all children to feel valued and cared for.
- The polite, happy, respectful children who engage well with their learning and are proud of their school.
- The clear direction provided by the new headteacher which is beginning to improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment across the school and nursery class.

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

- Across the nursery class and P1, practitioners and teachers should take steps to improve the environment. They should plan learning experiences that promote children's independence, curiosity and creativity.
- In the school, staff should develop further approaches to high-quality learning and teaching. In doing so, staff should provide more opportunities for children to take a lead in their own learning.
- In the school, senior leaders should continue to develop approaches to assessing and monitoring children's learning. This should help to improve staff's accuracy in measuring children's progress and help to raise attainment.

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 Kirkshaws Primary School and Nursery Class

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

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	adequate
1.1 Nurturing care and support	adequate
1.3 Play and learning	good
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	good

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of this inspection, there are three areas for improvement.

Area for improvement 1

To promote children's wellbeing, the provider should improve mealtime experiences. This should include but not be limited to, reviewing mealtime routines and improving staff interactions. This would help to promote a calm, relaxed and sociable experience.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I can enjoy unhurried mealtimes in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible' (HSCS 1.35).

Area for improvement 2

To ensure children's health needs are met, the provider should review medication systems, in line with guidance. This should include, but not be limited to, ensuring rescue medicines and associated records are accessible, to support safe administration.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me' (HSCS 1.19) and 'Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective' (HSCS 1.24).

Area for improvement 3

To ensure children receive care in a safe environment, the provider should improve measures to minimise the risk of spread of infection. This should include, but is not limited to, improving general cleanliness of play spaces, nappy changing areas and hand hygiene facilities.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well-maintained premises, furnishings and equipment' (HSCS 5.24).

This letter and a more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Kirkshaws 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. North Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

As a result of the Care Inspectorate's findings and evaluations, further scrutiny intervention will be considered to support improvements in the early learning and childcare setting.

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HM Inspector

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Care Inspector