

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Stenhousemuir Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre. 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 skilful leadership of the headteacher. Working with staff, children and parents, she has created a clear vision and well-developed values which are driving forward school improvement.
- Children are confident, articulate and enthusiastic about school and their learning. They are keen to take on roles of responsibility.
- The headteacher and staff have established positive relationships across the school community and developed an effective team approach to supporting children. This is having a positive impact on children's wellbeing, helping to ensure they are ready to learn and achieve.
- The leadership at all levels within the early learning and childcare centre, to create an inclusive, nurturing and responsive setting.
- The strong focus within the early learning and childcare centre on promoting children's creativity through high quality learning experiences.

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

- Working closely together, senior leaders should continue to develop strategic improvement planning across the school.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to improve learning and teaching. This should include developing a shared understanding of standards and expectations across all areas of the school.
- Senior leaders, working with teachers, should continue to review and develop approaches to assessment, planning and tracking to demonstrate clearly the progress children are making and support raising attainment.

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 Stenhousemuir Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre

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>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</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>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</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:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4810>

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

Lisa Marie McDonnell  
HM Inspector