

19 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Andrew's RC Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the Leader of Learning and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Welcoming, friendly and enthusiastic children who are keen to engage in their learning and are proud of their school.
- Nurturing and inclusive relationships across the school and nursery between the staff and the children that are based on mutual respect, understanding and kindness. This results in a positive and warm learning environment where children feel safe and happy.
- The commitment of all staff to improving their professional skills and knowledge. This is leading to positive outcomes for children.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Leader of Learning and a representative from Midlothian Council.

- Across the school and nursery, staff should identify with children targets for what they will learn, next steps for improvement and skills they are acquiring. This will enable children to talk more confidently about their progress and next steps in learning.
- Senior leaders and staff should strengthen how they use assessment data and other key information to help to ensure that all children are making the best possible progress.
- In the nursery, practitioners should continue to streamline approaches to planning and assessing children's 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 St Andrew's RC Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</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>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. Midlothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Gillian Whitford  
HM Inspector