

26 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter on Gartcosh Primary School. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and North Lanarkshire Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

**Review the curriculum structure to ensure appropriate breadth and balance of experiences. In doing this, develop progression pathways for all curricular areas to ensure children can build on their previous learning effectively as they go through the school. As part of this the school should streamline approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment.**

The school has made very good progress within a short time on the main areas we asked them to improve on. There is a strong sense of team work across the school where staff are very keen to improve provision for children in their care. The headteacher and staff display a strong professional approach to their work. They provide a happy caring atmosphere for children to learn. Staff and the headteacher have worked very well together to improve the curriculum across the school. They have involved parents staff and children in refreshing the vision and values on which the curriculum is based. Staff are now supported to provide children with experiences that build well on their prior learning using clear progression pathways. Staff have improved how they plan experiences for children and have made good efforts to link assessment to planned learning. Learning through play in the early years classes is improving and advice was given on how to develop it further.

**The headteacher should review the school's approaches to how it meets children's needs and make use of local and national guidance on recording and monitoring the progress of children with additional support needs.**

Staff and the headteacher have made very good progress with this areas for improvement. Staff have sought advice from best practice on how to best meet the needs of children with barriers to learning. There are now clear learning targets for children to measure their progress at short intervals. As far as possible, children and parents are involved in setting and reviewing these targets. The school now carries out clear assessments of children's learning and health and wellbeing needs. As a result of these assessments clear interventions are carried out with children to address gaps in learning. Staff now measure the success of these interventions regularly. In class staff now use a wider range of assessment to assess children's needs and determine progress in learning. They provide regular oral and written feedback to children to help improve their learning. Staff have created a tool to assist them in tracking children's wellbeing which is helping meet children's social and emotional needs more effectively.

**The headteacher and staff should develop further the ways in which they evaluate, track, and monitor the work of the school to ensure a robust and rigorous approach to raising attainment in literacy and numeracy.**

The headteacher and staff have worked well together to establish a clear system to track attainment and wellbeing of children. Regular meetings take place with staff and the headteacher to monitor progress of children and plan interventions. There is now a clear approach to raising attainment. Staff have worked well together to improve the teaching of reading, writing and numeracy. They now look carefully to ensure these changes are having an impact on children's attainment. Staff work well with other schools in the cluster to share standards and expectations across the curriculum. Regular professional learning of staff takes place to help them continually improve their practice. Overall, the headteacher and staff have made very good progress in improving the areas identified in the original inspection. Commendably, they have also undertaken a tremendous amount of work in addition to the areas identified in the original inspection. The school is well placed to continue to improve further.

### **What happens next?**

The school has made very good progress since the original inspection. 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 about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Sadie Cushley  
HM Inspector