

30 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Nicholas Primary School and Nursery. 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.

- Children who are welcoming, respectful and eager to learn. They demonstrate the values of St Nicholas Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery and are proud members of their faith community.
- The very positive relationships between children, and between children and adults which is a key strength across the whole school community. These approaches to supportive relationships and positive behaviour are understood by all. This ensures children are engaged and motivated in learning.
- Senior leaders and staff's very effective use of data across the school and nursery. As a result, children make very good progress in learning and maintain consistently high levels of attainment.
- Senior leaders very effective management of change. This has had a positive impact on approaches to learning, teaching and assessment across the school and nursery. As a result, children benefit from stimulating experiences and nurturing relationships.

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

- Continue to develop play approaches across the early and first level to ensure progression and continuity in children's learning.
- Continue to develop approaches across the school and nursery to make use of all information from children's achievements. This information should link to skills for learning, life and work.

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 Nicholas Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>very 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>very good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and review](#) | [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.

Louise Phillips  
HM Inspector