

23 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dechmont Infant School. 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.

- Enthusiastic and confident children who demonstrate their school values. They are eager to learn across the curriculum and identify strongly as a school community.
- The very positive relationships between adults and children. All staff work together well to provide a supportive and nurturing environment, built on the strong example set by the headteacher. Children know they are cared for and feel safe and happy.
- Effective approaches to teaching science, technologies and engineering, and digital literacy. Teachers plan and provide interesting challenges and contexts. These stimulate children's curiosity and support them to develop investigative skills.
- Close community partnership which enhances children's learning across the curriculum. Meaningful local projects are regular features of school life and parents are highly valued as partners in their children's education.

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

- Staff should support children to take increased ownership for their learning and develop further independence. This should include helping children to use their learning targets regularly to understand their progress and celebrate their successes.
- Staff should continue to develop teaching approaches to ensure the right levels of support and challenge for children. This will help all children to make the best possible progress in literacy and numeracy.
- As planned, staff should build children's knowledge and skills in mathematics.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Dechmont Infant School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

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.

Lisa Marie McDonnell
HM Inspector