

18 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Balfron Primary School and Nursery Class. 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 strong relationships between staff, children and parents across the school and nursery class.
- The caring staff team who, led by the headteacher and depute headteacher, know children, families and the school community very well. They work together in a flexible and responsive way to meet the needs of children and families in the nursery and across the primary stages. Careful attention is given to ensuring all children receive appropriate support and intervention as required.
- Children's attainment in literacy and numeracy. Almost all children across the school achieve appropriate levels in reading, writing, numeracy and mathematics. Children in the nursery class make good progress across the curriculum.
- The good start made to ensuring all children access high quality outdoor learning and learning about food and health which is supporting children to understand the importance of positive health and wellbeing.

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

- As identified by the school, work with the whole school community to build on the good start made in nurturing approaches, to further enhance positive behaviour and relationships between children.
- Improve the quality of learning and teaching to ensure all children experience consistently high quality learning and teaching at all stages. This should include a focus on extending children's role in their learning and on increasing pace and challenge across the curriculum.
- Continue to improve the curriculum. In doing so, ensure that effective assessment is integral to planning learning and teaching.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) 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 Balfroon Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/stirling/5722527>

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

Susan Duff
HM Inspector