

24 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Loanhead 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.

- Children who are confident, articulate, enthusiastic, and eager to learn. They are proud of their school and recent sporting achievements.
- Children's progress in listening and talking and high standards of writing. This is having a positive impact on their attainment.
- The headteacher, who together with staff, has worked well to create a welcoming, calm, learning environment across the school and nursery where everyone feels valued.
- Leadership of the headteacher in taking forward professional enquiry in the nursery class that is helping to develop early numeracy.

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

- Across the school and nursery, continue to strengthen approaches to self-evaluation to secure continuous improvement and consistency in learning and teaching.
- Working together with the whole campus community, staff should develop a health and wellbeing framework which is structured, progressive, relevant and includes outdoor learning for all children.
- Review the curriculum to ensure it reflects the local context and provides high quality progression pathways for all curricular areas and takes account of career education standards. Staff should ensure appropriate pace and challenge for all children as part of their entitlement to a broad general education.
- As planned, review whole school and distributed leadership to empower further all staff and children as leaders.

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 Loanhead Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=3483>

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.

Mary Ann Hagan
HM Inspector