

21 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Newtongrange 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 headteacher and the staff team have created a positive culture of learning in Newtongrange. Children respond positively to the support and encouragement they receive from their teachers and support staff. They demonstrate a clear sense of community and belonging. Children in the school and nursery engage enthusiastically in a wide range of experiences which provides them with rich opportunities to learn and achieve in different contexts.
- Staff work well together to plan learning which is relevant, enjoyable and has a clear focus on children's rights.
- Children make strong progress in literacy and numeracy. Children who require additional support make good progress towards achieving their personal targets.

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

- Senior leaders and staff should continue to work collaboratively to refine approaches to learning and teaching in both the school and nursery to further meet the needs of all the children.
- Staff should continue to develop approaches which promote children's understanding of the key skills and knowledge that they are developing. This will support them better to apply these in different situations.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Newtongrange Primary School and Nursery Class

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

[Newtongrange Primary School | Inspection Report | 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. Midlothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Teri McIntosh
HM Inspector