

10 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Burnbrae 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 staff team's welcoming approach to fostering positive relationships with families and partners.
- Caring staff, leading to children having trusting relationships. Children who are developing confidence and know who they can approach when they need help.
- The promising start made to developing effective learning approaches and partnership working across the nursery and early level.

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

- Improve strategic leadership of quality improvement across the school. Ensure systems for tracking and monitoring children's progress lead to a shared understanding of standards and ultimately raised attainment.
- Improve consistency in the quality of learning and teaching. Develop a framework for assessment and use assessment information to inform planning for learning to ensure children's progress.

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 Burnbrae Primary School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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	weak
Securing children's progress	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	adequate
Quality of management and leadership	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had one requirement and one recommendation. From these the requirement has been met. Outstanding issues relating to children's progress and next steps are carried forward to this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are two recommendations.

- The management team should ensure that there are effective tracking systems in place to support children's learning progress and development. Staff practice needs to be monitored

and developed to provide quality recordings of children's learning and provide challenge to promote positive outcomes.

Ref: Health and Social Care Standards

1.15 My personal plan (sometimes known as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.

1.27 I am supported to achieve my potential in education and employment; if this is right for me.

- The management team need to ensure that robust processes are in place to monitor and evaluate all aspects of the service, to include children's experiences, health and safety and staff practice. Quality assurance systems need to be rigorous and ensure they provide a safe and effective quality service for children.

Ref: Health and Social Care Standards

4.11 I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice

4.19 I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes.

This letter and 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=1822>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Midlothian Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within twelve months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Midlothian Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Susan Gow
Managing Inspector

Jacqueline Graham
Care Inspector