

23 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited St Joseph's 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.

- Enthusiastic and friendly children in the school and nursery who are motivated and keen to learn. They are respectful, attentive and engaged in their learning.
- Staff celebrate a wide range of children's achievements within and outwith school and nursery. As a result, children feel that their successes are valued, increasing their self-esteem and confidence.
- Highly effective practitioners in the nursery. They work very well together as a team and provide high quality learning experiences. This is supporting children to develop well and make very good progress.

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

- Improve the consistency of high-quality learning and teaching in the primary school. Ensure that learning activities are fully matched to all children's levels of abilities, including those who need more challenge. This will help raise attainment further and support children to reach their full potential.
- Develop a variety of ways to assess children's learning. This should include more ways for children to demonstrate their learning across the curriculum, particularly in numeracy and mathematics.

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 St Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Class.

Quality indicators for the primary school	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	

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

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	very good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	very good
1.3 Play and learning	very good
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	very good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	very good

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no areas for improvement were made.

This letter and 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.

M. A. Speirs
HM Inspector

Lucy Brown
Care Inspector