

31 January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2016 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Balnacraig School. During our visit, we talked to parents, carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The inclusive nurturing approaches to supporting children and young people to re-engage with learning.
- Enhancing professional skills of their staff to meet more effectively the educational and wellbeing needs of children and young people. Children and young people are responding well to the developing roles of key worker and key teacher.
- Positive working relationships with parents and other partners helping learners to develop social and employability skills which support their communities and prepares them for life beyond school.
- The headteacher and the Board of Directors working together well to encourage all staff to drive aspects of school improvement.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The Board of Directors:

- The school should to continue to develop approaches to learning, teaching and assessment to help all children and young people make appropriate progress.
- The school needs to develop further the process of monitoring and tracking children and young people's learning and skills development in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.
- Staff need to develop further their curriculum to best support learners, to drive improvements in learning and teaching and promote greater consistency.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*¹? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Balnacraig School

Leadership of Change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	Satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/reports/perth-and-kinross/5381649>

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. Balnacraig School will inform parents and carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Mary Berrill
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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