

21 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Wallyford 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.

- Senior leaders and staff across the school and nursery who know children and families very well. They are caring and supportive of children and each other. Across the school, staff build strong, positive relationships and ensure a nurturing environment for all children.
- The effective collaboration between staff at the school. Teachers work well together to share planning, resources and creative ideas. They are committed to developing their practice to improve outcomes for children.

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

- Teachers should continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- Teachers and practitioners should continue to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the nursery and school. This will support children to make the progress they are capable of.
- Teachers and practitioners should use information gathered through assessment opportunities to match better the tasks and activities to children's needs and abilities.
- Senior leaders now need to develop and use more effective tracking and monitoring approaches. This should help them to measure the progress children make over time and the impact interventions have in closing attainment gaps.

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 Wallyford Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
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: [Inspection and Review | Education Scotland](#)

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 East Lothian Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Lothian 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.

Denise Penman
HM Inspector