

11 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Class (Cleland). 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.

- Across the school and nursery, children are confident and articulate. They are polite, well-mannered and welcoming to visitors. Children are very proud of their school and nursery.
- All staff across the school and nursery work very well together to create positive, respectful and trusting relationships with children, parents and the community. They ensure a calm and purposeful learning environment where children want to do well and achieve.
- Staff in the school engage in professional learning to develop an effective approach to writing. This is resulting in confident children who are motivated and engaged in writing for a range of purposes and audiences.

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

- The senior leadership team in the school should target Pupil Equity Funds more closely to children who experience barriers to learning as a result of socio-economic circumstances. This should ensure the pace of closing the poverty-related attainment gap increases.
- The senior leadership team and staff in the school should continue to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment. This should support them further to raise attainment for all children.
- In the nursery, the senior leadership team and practitioners should continue to improve approaches to planning. They should include children more fully in planning learning. They should ensure children experience a breadth and balance of learning across all curricular areas.

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 Mary's Primary School and Nursery Class (Cleland)

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	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:

[St Mary's 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. North Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Denise Penman
HM Inspector