

28 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lochgelly West 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 new headteacher and principal teacher have quickly gained the confidence and trust of the school community. This is motivating and enthusing staff to improve learners' experiences.
- Children are polite, welcoming and proud of their school. They participate well in the life of the school and are eager to learn.
- Staff work well together to develop positive relationships with children and families. They led effectively through periods of significant change. This has impacted positively on children's wellbeing as they learn in nurturing environments.
- Children in the nursery are supported by enthusiastic practitioners who have worked well to improve learning and teaching for children. There is a welcoming ethos in the nursery underpinned by the well-understood vision and values.

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

- School leaders need to streamline processes for supporting learners. They should ensure that planned change is embedded in the work of the school. They need to focus the school's work on key priorities that will secure the greatest impact on children's outcomes.
- In the school, staff need to continue to improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment across the curriculum. Teachers need to plan learning that results in all children receiving appropriate levels of support and challenge.
- All staff need to focus on raising the attainment and accelerating the progress of children across the school as an immediate priority. Staff need to reverse the declining pattern of attainment of children as they progress through the school.
- In the nursery, practitioners should continue to improve children's progress over time by developing approaches to assessment to ensure all children reach their learning potential.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Lochgelly West Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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: [Lochgelly West Primary School | Inspection Report | 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 Fife Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 18 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Fife 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.

Patricia Cameron
HM Inspector