

23 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Serf'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.

- Articulate, friendly children who are respectful towards each other and proud of their school.
- The staff's commitment to ensuring children are active. Children enjoy high quality physical education and can access a range of clubs to stay active. They participate in a wide range of sporting events. This is supporting children to be healthy, and has increased awareness of positive choices they can make to improve their wellbeing.
- The team work in the nursery. Staff use self-evaluation effectively to identify areas for improvement and strive to provide a caring ethos and positive learning experiences for children in the nursery class.

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

- There is a need for stronger strategic leadership and direction to the work of the nursery class and school. Senior leaders, and all teachers need to improve approaches to self-evaluation to ensure improvement priorities are based on the needs of the school and lead to improved outcomes for all children. Whole school approaches to monitoring and tracking children's work should be reviewed.
- The leadership team and staff need to ensure all learners experience high quality learning, teaching and assessment, with appropriate levels of pace and challenge. Approaches to assessment should be updated, embedded in planning, and inform next steps for learners.
- Improve children's attainment in literacy and numeracy and mathematics.
- Continue to ensure children experience progression and depth across all curricular areas within relevant contexts which take account of the school's local area and 21st century Scotland.

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 St Serf's Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/clackmannanshire/5702224>

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 Clackmannanshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Clackmannanshire 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.

Marion Carlton
HM Inspector