

17 June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mary's RC Primary School and Polbeth 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 headteacher and staff team ensure that children's rights and positive relationships are at the heart of the school and the nursery's work. Staff provide a nurturing environment, supporting children well and valuing and respecting their views.
- In the school and Enhanced Resource Base, teachers plan learning well, which meets the needs of all children who require additional support. Senior leaders are highly effective in ensuring the progress of children who have barriers to learning.
- School committees, groups and clubs support all children and staff to demonstrate skills for effective learning and leadership. As they move through the school, children become more articulate about how they use their skills in different aspects of their life.
- Across the school and nursery, all staff have a strong understanding of the challenges and difficulties that affect their school community. Senior leaders and staff are very committed to ensuring equity for all children and their families.
- The nursery environment has a wide range of rich learning opportunities, both indoors and outdoors. Children are highly motivated and engaged in their learning.

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

- Senior leaders should work with staff to develop consistently high-quality learning and teaching across the school and nursery. This should ensure that all lessons and activities are planned at the right level and sufficiently challenging for all children.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to raise attainment in numeracy and mathematics.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 RC Primary School and Polbeth Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

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

Tracie McEwan  
HM Inspector