

10 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Blackwood 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 welcoming, positive and inclusive ethos that supports very positive relationships throughout the school and nursery. This promotes mutual trust and respect.
- The strong leadership and direction provided by the headteacher and senior leadership team across the school and nursery. This supports staff and partners to work together effectively to meet the needs of all children and their families.
- The strong culture of professional learning and the positive impact this is having on the work of the school and nursery.
- The range of opportunities for children to develop their physical and emotional wellbeing in and beyond the school and nursery. As a result, children are confident, resilient and eager to learn.
- The positive way the nursery team have embraced change in the setting. This is leading to improved outcomes for children and their families.

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

- Continue to develop a shared understanding of high quality learning, teaching and assessment to ensure the needs of all children are met.
- Continue to develop approaches to support planning for improvement in the nursery to ensure that all children make the best possible progress in their development.

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

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very 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>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</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:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=1675>.

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

Pamela Adamson  
HM Inspector