

26 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited St Ignatius' Primary 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 highly effective leadership of senior leaders in ensuring equity for all. Their relentless drive to meet the needs of all children across the nursery and school ensures that everyone is included.
- The very positive relationships between all staff, children and families. There is a strong feeling of mutual respect and trust between staff and parents. Children thrive in the calm and nurturing family ethos across the nursery and school.
- High standards of learning and teaching across the primary stages. Highly-skilled staff work very well together to plan learning experiences that are motivating and relevant for children.
- Children's strong attainment in literacy and numeracy at the primary stages. Teachers and support staff provide the right balance of challenge and extra help to make sure all children can be the best they can be. Staff are closing the attainment gap that exists because of poverty and the cost-of-living crisis.
- Successful partnerships with parents, the community and other professionals. Staff work closely with colleagues across the joint campus, other schools and agencies to provide the best support for children and families. The local parish contributes strongly to the caring nature and Gospel values of the school community.

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

- In the nursery, develop further the staff team's understanding of high-quality play and learning. Ensure that all children in the nursery benefit from the right level of support and challenge in their learning.
- Continue with plans to review the remits of staff and managers within the nursery to strengthen arrangements for quality assurance.

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 Ignatius' Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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	satisfactory
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	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	
1.1 Nurturing care and support	good
1.3 Play and learning	adequate
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	adequate

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, the following areas for improvement have been made.

Area for improvement 1:

To support children's learning and development, management should review planning systems to ensure children's experiences are reflective of child development, their interests and individual needs.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity. (HSCS 2.27)

Area for improvement 2:

To support children's wellbeing, learning and development, management should ensure the environment is supportive of children's learning, development and choices.

This should include, but not limited to, ensuring children have access to imaginative spaces and enough toys and materials to support their natural curiosity.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'I can independently access the parts of the premises I use and the environment has been designed to promote this. (HSCS 5.11)

Area for improvement 3:

To ensure the quality of children's experiences are improved, the manager should implement robust quality assurance processes, covering key areas of practice.

This should include, but not be limited to, monitoring children's personal plans, children's play and learning experiences, monitoring of staff practice, medication systems and evaluating and improving the nursery as a whole.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes'. (HSCS 4.19)

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

[Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and review | 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.

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