

7 February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**St Mungo's RC Primary School
Clackmannanshire Council**

In September 2014, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and Clackmannanshire Council. We subsequently returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve its work, and published another letter in December 2015. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection and at other aspects of the school's work, as proposed by the headteacher. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

Further develop curriculum and approaches to assessment to raise children's attainment.

The headteacher has continued to engage well with the local community including parents and established a clear purpose and direction for the curriculum based on delivering Curriculum for Excellence. Across the school, experiences are more motivating and engaging. Children continue to be more involved in deciding what they want to learn as part of their work in class. Staff now have clearer guidance in developing the curriculum with the result that children are now building on their prior learning more effectively. There is a clear overview of children's learning across the curriculum. This is helping children receive more coherent experiences as they move from stage to stage. Teachers are developing a clearer, and more accurate, view of children's progress and attainment. They are now more aware of the gaps in children's learning and are taking steps to address this area. As a result, most children are now making good progress in English Language and literacy and mathematics and numeracy compared to the majority of children at the time of the original inspection.

Review approaches to meeting the social, emotional and learning needs of all children.

Overall, continuity in staffing has helped the school move forward significantly with this area for improvement. Good progress has been made in developing children's social and emotional wellbeing helped by focussing on developing the nurture

principles across the school. The school has been successful in raising expectations of children's learning and behaviour. The school should continue to work on providing children with well-paced and suitably challenging activities. Through training and well targeted support, all staff now have a clearer understanding about their responsibility for supporting children in their learning. Support plans are in place for children who require them and these are now monitored and evaluated more regularly. We have asked the school to continue to monitor and evaluate the progress made by children who have English as an Additional Language.

Improve the quality and consistency of children's learning experiences through focused self-evaluation.

Since the original inspection, staff have continued to work hard to improve how children learn in class. Children are now more active in their learning and as a result now respond well in their lessons. The school has been successful in raising expectations of children's behaviour. As a result, children are better placed to learn than previously. Children are becoming more aware of their own strengths as learners. This continues to remain an area for development within the school. Overall, there is greater consistency in learners' experiences throughout the school. The headteacher has taken forward areas for improvement in a planned manageable way. Self-evaluation is more focused with better procedures in place to monitor and track the progress of children throughout the school. Approaches to assessment have improved since the last inspection. Along with moderation, staff are better placed in planning more effective teaching and learning for their children. We also recognised the considerable support given to the school by Clackmannanshire Council.

Develop stronger teamwork across the school and its partners to improve learning.

Since the original inspection there has been a significant change in staffing. This has energised the school and enabled progress to be made. As such, staff are now working as a much more cohesive team focussing on school improvement. Teamwork is now more evident at the planning and assessment of class and school work. There is greater evidence of collaborative working with other partners. This has been supported and driven by the local authority through their school improvement initiative. Partners including primary headteachers of neighbouring schools have been involved in monitoring and evaluating the work of the school along with the local authority. The school should seek to explore further opportunities in using their partners in the wider community to contribute to the curriculum.

What happens next?

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. 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. Clackmannanshire Council will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Guch Dhillon
HM Inspector

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