

23 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Thomas' 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.

- Hard working, courteous and well behaved children who show resilience. Positive relationships between teachers, staff and children which support a purposeful learning climate characterised by mutual respect.
- Staff across the school and nursery class who work well as a team and enrich children's experiences both within and outwith the classes.
- Staff ensure that steps are put in place to ease particular barriers to participation in order to secure equitable outcomes for all children.
- The drive of the headteacher and her depute in taking forward wellbeing, inclusion and equity. This results in children feeling safe, nurtured, supported and are treated fairly across the school and nursery.

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

- Continue to ensure that the school's approaches to planning for improvement are underpinned by effective self-evaluation. This evidence will secure improvements to raise attainment and develop children's progress.
- Continue to develop a shared understanding across all staff, in the nursery class and school, of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for St Thomas' Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How good is our school? (4th edition) , Appendix 3: The six-point scale .	

Quality indicators nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How Good is our Early learning and Childcare How good is our school? (4th edition) , Appendix 3: The six-point scale .	

A more detailed document called summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/north-lanarkshire/8516227>.

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.

Elizabeth Paterson
HM Inspector