

Inspection of Lasswade Primary School and Nursery**Report by Michelle Strong, Education Chief Operating Officer****Report for Information****1 Recommendations**

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the [Education Scotland inspection letter](#)
- (ii) Note that Education Scotland are confident that the school and nursery has the capacity to continue to improve and so will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.
- (iii) Congratulate the Headteacher, pupils, parents and staff connected with Lasswade Primary School on the key strengths highlighted in the report.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The report outlines the outcome of the Education Scotland inspection of Lasswade Primary School and nursery class.

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Report Contact:

Colin McLean, Quality Improvement Manager Professional Learning and Digital Inclusion & Learning

Colin.McLean@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background/Main Body of Report

3.1 In November 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lasswade Primary School and nursery. The report was published on 27 February 2024 and is now available on Education Scotland's website.

3.2 Education Scotland is responsible for inspecting education settings throughout Scotland. Inspectors use the following selected quality indicators from How Good is our School 4? to evaluate the quality of education provision in the primary school:

QI	1.3	Leadership of Change
QI	2.3	Learning, teaching and assessment
QI	3.1	Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion
QI	3.2	Raising attainment and achievement

Inspectors use the following selected quality indicators from How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare? To evaluate the quality of education provision in the nursery:

QI	1.3	Leadership of change
QI	2.3	Learning, teaching and assessment
QI	3.1	Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion
QI	3.2	Securing children's progress

At the end of the inspection process, the outcomes are published in a [short letter](#) to parents and carers outlining the key strengths and areas for improvement. This letter provides a statement of the confidence the inspectors have in the school's capacity to improve the quality of its own work. This is published along with the [summary of inspection findings \(SIF\)](#). The SIF is a professional report and summarises the findings from all the evidence gathered during the inspection. This document is intended to be used by staff in progressing school improvement.

National Improvement Framework (NIF)

As part of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, the reporting procedures for the National Improvement Framework (NIF) have been placed on a statutory footing. The evaluations of Quality Indicators 2.3 and 3.2 feed directly into the evidence base for the NIF in order to demonstrate progress with the NIF priorities and drivers for improvement. This progress is reported annually by the Scottish Government..

Inspection Findings

Lasswade Primary School and Nursery were evaluated as follows:

Primary Stages	Quality Indicator 1.3 Leadership of change 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Grade Very good Good Good Good
Early Learning and Childcare	Quality Indicator 1.3 Leadership of change 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion 3.2 Securing children's progress	Very good Good Good Good

3.3 Strengths

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school and nursery:

- The effective leadership from the headteacher across the school and early learning and childcare setting. She is supported well by senior leaders and motivated staff. This is leading to a culture that reflects the vision, values and aims of the school and early learning and childcare setting very well.
- Children who are proud of their school and early learning and childcare setting. Children are happy, friendly, respectful and interact well. They are keen to learn and contribute to the life of the school.
- Staff who maintain a focus on wellbeing across the school and early learning and childcare setting. They help develop children who are responsible, able to find solutions to challenges, engage well in activities, and are proud of their successes.
- Staff's success in addressing gaps in children's attainment. Staff in the early learning and childcare setting support children well to accelerate their learning, particularly in developing their early communication, language and wellbeing skills.

3.4 Areas for improvement

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

- Continue to develop approaches to learning and teaching. Teachers should make sure that activities are set at the right level of difficulty for all children.
- Increase outdoor learning experiences across the nursery and primary as part of the curriculum.
- Continue to raise attainment, including how the school and early learning and childcare setting checks that all children are making good progress.

3.5 Conclusion

Education Scotland is confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Midlothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

There are no financial and human resource implications associated with this report.

4.2 Digital

There are no Digital implications.

4.3 Risk

Education Scotland's team of Inspectors visit a sample of education settings every year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs parents about the key strengths of the setting and its capacity for further improvement.

Following the publication of the report further visits may be made to the setting, by the Education Authority to assist improvement and monitor progress.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by central officers in the Education Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of settings to demonstrate their capacity to improve.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

The School Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Background information/Links

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

- Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

Noted within.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

A link to the published report has been made available to Elected Members, parents of children currently attending Lasswade Primary School and other interested parties.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The setting will continue to improve its work in line with the school improvement plan and central officers in the Education Team will continue to challenge and support the setting in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The Education (Scotland) Bill aims to take preventative action in order to close the attainment versus deprivation gap by implementing key policies and programmes which are designed to target support to children and young people from disadvantaged communities. Midlothian is highly committed to closing the poverty related attainment gap.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The School Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

APPENDIX B

Education Scotland inspection findings letter to parents
Education Scotland summary of inspection findings