

25 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Danderhall Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the acting headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Confident and articulate children across the school and provision who are enthusiastic about their learning. They are keen and able to have a greater role in leadership across the school.
- The impact of the new senior leadership team. They have improved staff confidence and are implementing approaches that are beginning to improve children's attainment.
- Staff work together effectively and support each other well. They recognise the positive impact of recent changes and are keen to continue to improve the school.

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

- The senior leadership team and staff should continue to develop approaches to evaluate the quality of the school's work to identify what needs to improve. As they do so, they should involve parents, children and other partners to ensure changes lead to improvements.
- Staff should improve learning, teaching and assessment to ensure the needs of all children are being met. Teaching staff should provide experiences for children that are creative, motivating and enjoyable.
- The senior leadership team and staff should continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy. They should support children to develop skills and achieve success in a range of learning contexts.
- All staff should work together to develop a curriculum to support children to have a better understanding of their own wellbeing and social and emotional needs.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Danderhall Primary School

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

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. Midlothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Monica Reilly
HM Inspector