

22 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Paradykes Primary School and Family Learning Centre. 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 effective leadership of the headteacher together with the depute headteacher in creating a caring and inclusive ethos. The welcoming environment where, staff, partners, parents and children feel valued.
- The energetic children who value play, are keen to be actively involved and take increasing responsibility for their learning.
- The school's capacity to continually improve through strong teamwork between teachers, practitioners, support staff and partners.
- The clear understanding of the needs of children and their families leading to children's readiness to learn and improved wellbeing.

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

- Continue to develop robust approaches to assessment leading to consistency in high quality learning and teaching.
- Continue to evaluate the school's improvement initiatives and raise attainment and achievement for all.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Paradykes Primary School and Family Learning Centre

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
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? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/midlothian/5547326>

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.

Susan Gow
HM Inspector