

10 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Strathesk 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.

- The positive, nurturing relationships between children and staff across the school and nursery. This is providing children with a calm and positive learning environment.
- Children who are polite, happy and enthusiastic. They enjoy learning in school and nursery. They show respect, care and kindness as they learn and play together. Children are very proud of their school and nursery.
- Improvements in the consistency of effective learning and teaching across the school, including creative approaches to digital literacy and out-door learning. As a result, children are now engaged, motivated and know how to be successful.

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

- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy in school age children.
- Across the school, continue to improve the reliability of teachers' professional judgements about children's progress and attainment. Teachers should have more opportunities to work with each other and colleagues in other schools to develop their understanding of national standards across the curriculum.
- Improve approaches to checking on children's progress across all curricular areas in the school and nursery to inform planning for children's learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Strathesk Primary School and Nursery Class

| Quality indicators for the primary school | Evaluation |
|--|---------------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | good |
| 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 | |

| Quality indicators for the nursery class | Evaluation |
|--|-------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | good |
| Securing children's progress | 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:

[Strathesk Primary School | Inspection Report | 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.

Fraser Gillan
HM Inspector