

20 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In March a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Hawthornden Primary School and Specialised Provision. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

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

- The good start of the newly appointed headteacher in making improvements to the school.
- Children who enthusiastically speak about strategies to support their learning.
- Positive relationships between children and staff and the emphasis and impact of parental partnerships.
- Staff who are engaged in practitioner enquiry and are enthusiastic about developing the work of the school.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from Midlothian Council:

- Improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the school to ensure all children are making the best possible progress in their learning.
- To raise attainment in literacy and numeracy staff need to improve the use of assessment information during the course of their teaching to meet the individual needs of children.
- Develop flexible curricular pathways, to ensure that there are shared standards and expectations across the school so that children make the best possible progress in their learning.
- Ensure that the specialist provision is better integrated within the school so that children, particularly on part-time placements achieve their full entitlement to a broad general education.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*¹? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Hawthornden Primary School

Leadership of Change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/midlothian/5542227>

What happens next?

We will ask for a report on progress within 12 months of the inspection. This report will inform any decision made by Education Scotland regarding further engagement. This may include another inspection visit. When such a decision is made, we will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action, agreed with Midlothian Council that we intend to take.

Elizabeth Paterson
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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The Complaints Manager
Education Scotland
Denholm House
Almondvale Business Park
Almondvale Way
Livingston EH54 6GA

T +44 (0)131 244 4330
E enquires@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk

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