



22 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2016 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited St Dominic's RC Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate indicators of the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and young people's success and achievements.

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

- The effective leadership of the headteacher and support of the principal teachers. They successfully lead and encourage teamwork amongst staff resulting in an inclusive and welcoming learning environment for all.
- The headteacher and staff place high value on and actively encourage and involve parents/carers as partners. The school is rightly held in high regard by its wider community.
- Staff deliver interesting and motivating lessons that cater well for the mixed stages in classes and the nursery. The emphasis on learning outdoors is well established and engages learners very well in their school and local environment.
- All children benefit from a strong focus on healthy lifestyles which is having a positive impact on their fitness and wellbeing. Staff in the nursery have made a very positive start providing opportunities for families to learn together.
- Children, including those who have English as an additional language are making good progress overall. Most are attaining the appropriate Curriculum for Excellence levels in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics. A particular strength is how well children are developing skills in talking and listening. They are polite and courteous and enjoy talking about their learning.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Perth and Kinross Council:

- Refresh the school's and nursery's vision with staff, parents/carers, children and partners to ensure an on-going focus on continuous improvement and raise attainment further.
- Continue to develop the effective use of assessment and ensure progression in all aspects of the curriculum.

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? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*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 St Dominic's RC Primary School.

Primary stages

Leadership of change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very good

Nursery class

Leadership of change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Securing children's progress	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very good

¹ *How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

Here are the Care Inspectorate gradings for the nursery class

Quality of care and support	Good
Quality of environment	Good
Quality of staffing	Good
Quality of management and leadership	Good

Recommendation made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class:

- The service should further develop their quality assurance systems to record actions taken, and the resulting impact of this within the service.
National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16,
Standard 13 - Improving the service. Standard 14 – Well-managed service.

The letter is available on the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate websites at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/primsec/StDominicsRCPrimaryPerthandKinross.asp> and

<http://www.scswis.com/>

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. Perth and Kinross Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any Requirements and Recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Susan Gow
HM Inspector

Vicky Lamb
Care Inspector

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