

24 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Madoes 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 welcoming, caring and inclusive ethos, which is built upon positive relationships, reflecting the school's vision and values.
- In the nursery and school, children are articulate, well-behaved and respectful of each other and adults. They are proud of their school and eager to learn.
- The headteacher involves all staff in leading developments and encourages them to participate in relevant professional learning.
- Practitioners' recent and on-going changes to the nursery indoor and outdoor environment are supporting children to be creative and highly engaged in their learning.

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

- The senior leadership team should continue to increase the pace of change to ensure that well-planned improvement priorities, with appropriate timescales, result in improved outcomes for children.
- The senior leadership team and staff need to continue to raise attainment by increasing challenge and pace of learning. Children should have more opportunities to apply their learning in real life contexts and to explore relevance and depth in their learning. They should be encouraged to lead their learning and become independent learners.
- Continue to develop progressive learning pathways across all curricular areas to enrich children's learning and improve their progress. Teachers need to continue to moderate standards across all levels and in line with national standards and expectations.
- In the nursery, practitioners need to continue to review and refine systems for observing, planning, tracking and recording children's learning to indicate the progress children are making.

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 St Madoes Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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	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/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4624>

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.

Lorraine Fisher
HM Inspector