

14 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Newington 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.

- With staff, the headteacher has established a stable, welcoming and supportive school for children and their families.
- Children are happy and eager to learn. They are respectful of each other and of teachers. Children are articulate and confident when speaking to adults.
- Children have a wealth of opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities including representing the school at local and national level. This is supporting children to be active and valued members of the school and wider community.
- Teachers involvement in developing clear curriculum pathways. These are ensuring all children access their full entitlement to a broad general education.

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

- Improve the strategic leadership of the school and nursery. Involve all staff and nursery practitioners in prioritising and leading developments which result in better outcomes for all children.
- Practitioners need to improve their approaches to self-evaluation in the nursery class to ensure that they have a greater understanding of what is working well and what needs to improve. Practitioners should use information gathered to drive forward necessary and continuous improvements to enable children to make the best possible progress.
- Improve the school's approaches to tracking and monitoring and use of assessment information to inform how staff plan children's learning and raise their attainment.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Newington Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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=3840>

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

Marion Carlton  
HM Inspector