

18 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Whitdale Primary School and Early Years Centre. 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.

- Children's high quality learning experiences in the Early Years Centre. In particular, their use of the outdoor environment which promotes their curiosity, independence and learning across different curricular areas.
- Senior leaders' and staff's development of effective strategies to improve children's outcomes in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics.
- School staff and nursery practitioners' support for children with additional support needs, including those for whom English is an additional language, which results in their good progress across the school and nursery.
- Children's skills in digital literacy and their use of digital technologies which enhance their learning across the school and nursery.

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

- Across the school, staff need to continue to improve learning, teaching and assessment.
- Together with staff, senior leaders should continue to develop the curriculum to ensure it is relevant to the children of Whitburn and promotes progressive learning across all areas.
- Senior leaders, with staff, should review the school's approaches to play based pedagogy to ensure that children continue to make progress in their learning across the early level.

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 Whitdale Primary School and Early Years Centre

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</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 Early Years Centre	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</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>	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the early years centre

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	very good
Quality of environment	very good

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the early years centre

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

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=5173>

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

Susan Smith  
HM Inspector

Seonaid Lowe  
Care Inspector