

18 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Torphichen 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 highly effective leadership of the seconded headteacher, together with the new headteacher who have led a strong culture of collaboration and consultation for all stakeholders. They maintain a clear focus on providing high quality learning for all the children at Torphichen Primary school. Staff continue to develop their practice collegiately to support the highest possible outcomes for every child.
- The very positive relationships and supportive interactions by staff in the nursery class and across the school that are resulting in learners being well motivated in class. Children are friendly, polite and proud of their school. They are beginning to play an increasing role in leading their own learning and the learning of others.
- The nurturing climate for learning in the nursery class and across the school where children are valued and work within an ethos of respect and care. Children support each other well within a very inclusive environment.
- The effective practice that has been established in literacy and numeracy which is leading to improved attainment.
- The strong commitment from parents and families to widen learning experiences for children. This is enriching the quality of their learning and supporting their achievements.

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

- In the nursery class, staff should ensure they plan for clear progression pathways across all curriculum areas.
- In the nursery and across the rest of the school, senior leaders should proceed as planned to put in place clear strategies and interventions to continue to raise attainment. Together with the children, staff should focus now on evaluating more regularly, progress and improvement over time. This will support learners to work at the correct pace and with sufficient challenge.

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 Torphichen Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
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	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

The setting had no previous requirements or recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and two recommendations.

Recommendations

- The provider should develop policy and procedures for 'personal care' and ensure they have adequate facilities to meet the needs of the children attending the service, in line with best practice guidance. The provider should consider:
 - responsive care in line with children's personal plans.
 - how the privacy and dignity of children will be respected.
 - how the areas used for personal care look and feel to a child. Is it warm, comfortable and pleasant?
 - what facilities and practice are in place to support good infection control procedures?
 - what measures have been taken to ensure the changing area is consistent with best practice guidance?

Guidance is available at:

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/1623/space-to-grow.pdf>

and

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/1558/nappy-changing-guidance-for-early-years-and-childcareservices.pdf>

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state: As a child, if I require intimate personal care there is a suitable area for this, including a sink if needed (HSCS 5.4) and if I require personal care, this is carried out in a dignified way, with my privacy and personal preferences respected (HSCS 1.4).

- To ensure that children experience stability in their care, the service should further develop their personal plans, referred to by the service as 'Care Diaries'. Personal plans should clearly outline how the service intends to meet every child's health, welfare and safety needs. These should be reviewed with parents at least once every six months or when there is a significant change, in line with legislation.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which states: My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices. (HSCS 1:15)

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/west-lothian/5508126>

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.

Aileen Monaghan
HM Inspector

Kelly McGarvey
Care Inspector