

14 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Uphall 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 and nursery's work.

- Positive relationships between staff and children across the school. Staff and children take pride in their school, are supportive of each other, and are willing to take on further responsibilities.
- The whole school approach to improving emotional literacy for all children in order to help them better manage important aspects of wellbeing and engage more effectively in their learning opportunities.
- Improvements to the nursery class environment both indoors and out. This has resulted in increased opportunities for children to lead their own play and engage in their learning for extended periods of time.

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

- Work as a team to develop effective approaches to school improvement to better support the strategic direction and pace of change across the whole school community.
- Improve approaches to learning and teaching to ensure children's experiences are of a consistently high quality across the school.
- Ensure robust assessment and moderation arrangements provide reliable evidence to better inform and support progress in learning.
- Develop a shared understanding and improved approaches to planning, monitoring and tracking of children's progress in attainment and achievement in order to improve outcomes for all children.

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 Uphall Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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/inspection-reports/west-lothian/5508223>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with West Lothian Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with West Lothian Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Sue Williams
HM Inspector