

30 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Mid Calder 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 headteacher, who has developed a culture of leadership at all levels across the school. The staff team across the nursery and primary stages work collaboratively and are empowered to lead improvements across the whole school.
- The place of wellbeing, which is at the heart of the school's ethos, and the importance that senior leaders and all staff have given to mental health. In this nurturing environment children are confident, articulate, respectful and are very keen to learn.
- The strong culture of digital literacy and learning throughout the school. Digital technologies are used very effectively to enhance and enrich learning across the curriculum from nursery to primary 7, resulting in children who are confident to share their learning and skills.
- The motivating and creative experiences offered to children in the nursery, including through their use of outdoor learning. As a result, children make very good progress across all areas of their learning.

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

- As planned, continue with the focus on pace and challenge across the school, to raise attainment further for children. Developing children's leadership in their own learning, with further independence in their learning, should support this.
- As identified, across the nursery and primary stages, continue to review and develop the curriculum, including incorporating all aspects of diversity, and linking learning more clearly to skills for learning, life and work.

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 Mid Calder Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Securing children's progress	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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/5501520>

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.

Sally Stewart
HM Inspector