

21 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Pentland Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers, partners and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school and nursery's work.

- The leadership of the headteacher, who is ably supported by the acting depute head teachers and the staff team. Together, they have created a caring, nurturing and inclusive environment for learning across the school and nursery. The positive and mutually respectful relationships support positive outcomes for children.
- The staff team, who support each other well. They are enthusiastic, passionate about learning and keen to learn from each other. Staff make good use of their professional skills and personal interests to support children. Staff willingly lead or contribute to aspects of school improvement.
- Children who are proud of their school. Children in the school and nursery are happy, enthusiastic and motivated to learn. They respect others and their environment, feel valued by all and work well individually and together. In the school, children attain and achieve very well. Children's opportunities in the nursery promote their confidence, creativity and curiosity.
- Staff are sensitive in their approach to equity for children. They are supported well by the school community. Embedded in school life, these discrete supports enhance the learning experiences for children and their families.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The City of Edinburgh Council.

- Staff should continue to work together to develop further their approaches to reviewing what they do and what they need to do next. They should ensure that priorities are well-planned and appropriately paced.
- Continue to improve approaches to planning, assessment and agreeing standards to ensure that all children continue to build on their learning. Teachers should continue to ensure that children make the best possible progress across all areas of the curriculum.
- Continue to develop the curriculum to ensure it is relevant and progressive and takes account of the local context. Staff should develop further a rationale for the curriculum, based on developing 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? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Pentland Primary School and Nursery Class

| Quality indicators for the primary stages  | Evaluation       |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Leadership of change</b>  | <b>good</b>      |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>good</b>      |
| <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><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>good</b>      |
| <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>   | <b>good</b>      |
| <b>Securing children's progress</b>  | <b>good</b>      |
| <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>  | <b>very good</b> |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from:<br><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=4020>

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

Frances E Graham  
HM Inspector