

2 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Barnhill 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 strong leadership provided by the headteacher and extended leadership team. Together with staff across the school, they work well as a team to lead and manage the pace of change very effectively. This is helping to maintain consistently high standards of attainment across the school and is empowering staff to lead and drive key aspects of improvement.
- The enthusiasm and commitment of all staff to undertake a range of professional research tasks. As a result, staff have created the Barnhill Standard for Learning and Teaching as a guide for all staff across the school. This is improving the quality of children's learning experiences, attainment and achievements in most classes.
- Very articulate, polite and well-behaved children who are very confident discussing their learning, their strengths and interests, as well as what they need to do to improve.

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

- Continue to ensure staff use progression pathways across all areas of the curriculum. This will provide clearer direction for teachers to support children to build on their learning as they move through the school.
- As planned, continue to improve further the arrangements for meeting the needs of 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 Barnhill Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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	very 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/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=1586>

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

Sadie Cushley
HM Inspector