

8 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Muirkirk Primary School and Early Childhood Centre. 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 early childhood centre and school's work.

- Children who are very proud of their school and early childhood centre. Children live and demonstrate the values of the school, and have a strong sense of belonging to the school, the early childhood centre and community.
- Senior leaders and staff have created safe, nurturing, inclusive surroundings in which children learn. Staff's shared responsibility for the wellbeing and welfare of children is evident.
- Staff use professional learning effectively to better meet the needs of children. Staff work well together as a team.
- Strong partnerships with the local community which are enhancing learning activities and helping children be supported, sometimes differently, to achieve equal outcomes.

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

- Continue to build the capacity for all staff to lead changes across the school and early childhood centre. Staff should be clearer about how they gather evidence on how well the school is doing. It will be helpful to have clearer measurable targets to check that changes and interventions are leading to improvements for children.
- Increase opportunities for children to learn independently and provide more activities which encourage children to think for themselves. Teachers and practitioners should ensure that they provide activities set at the right level 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? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Muirkirk Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

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>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the early childhood centre	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <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=3765>

### 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. East Ayrshire 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