

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Castlehill Primary School, Enhanced Learning Resource 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.

- Children who are polite, friendly and well behaved. They work well together in classes and across the school.
- The high quality of relationships across the school community. Children, parents and all staff share mutual respect for each other.
- Strong staff teamwork and a culture of professional learning resulting in improved teaching and learning experiences. As a result, children are motivated and engaged in interesting learning activities.

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

- Staff across the school and nursery should continue to work together, and with other schools, to improve assessment.
- The leadership team and nursery staff should work together to develop high quality learning experiences. In doing this, they need to ensure effective planning for children's learning is aligned to Curriculum for Excellence and provides learning at the right level of difficulty for all children.
- The leadership team and nursery staff should work together to ensure children make the best possible progress in their learning. As part of this, they need to establish an effective way of tracking children's progress through the early level.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Castlehill Primary School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>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 nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>weak</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=1987>

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the nursery setting needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with East Dunbartonshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the nursery within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Dunbartonshire 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 nursery has made.

Rosalind J Webster  
HM Inspector