

28 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Thomas RC 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 calm strategic leadership of the headteacher. This is supporting change and improvement across the school.
- The positive, nurturing relationships in the nursery between practitioners, children and their families that support children to feel happy and settled and ready to learn.
- The school focus on music, which is enriching children's experiences. Children are building confidence, experiencing success and contributing to the life of the school and the wider community through the variety of musical learning opportunities available to them.

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

- Improve learning and teaching across the school to ensure all children have consistently high quality experiences that meet their learning needs. This should include building children's resilience and motivation to support their perception of themselves as successful learners.
- Develop a curriculum that reflects the unique context of St Thomas RC Primary School and nursery class, and supports children to make progress across all areas.
- In the nursery, develop systems to gather data on children's progress in learning. Across the school, information should be used to identify gaps in learning and interventions that could improve learning for all.
- Raise attainment, in all aspects of literacy and numeracy.

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 St Thomas RC Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</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>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</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=4788>

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we identified areas where improvements are required. In light of the current circumstances, we will liaise with Moray Council to discuss our findings and support for the school. We will provide you with an update on next steps once the school has reopened.

Jacqueline Gallagher  
HM Inspector