

11 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Joseph's 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.

- Confident, enthusiastic and articulate children who are motivated to learn across the nursery and school. They engage well in their learning as a result of the range of strategies used by teachers, nursery practitioners and other staff.
- Children's progress in listening and talking as a result of approaches used by teachers, staff and nursery practitioners.
- Together with staff, the headteacher has been successful in developing positive relationships across the school and nursery that are nurturing and inclusive.

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

- Continue to raise children's attainment and achievement further in the nursery and at the primary stages. Senior leaders, with teachers and nursery practitioners, should develop approaches which enable children to identify, understand and apply key skills for learning, life and work.
- Continue to develop nursery practitioners' and teachers' understanding of national standards in achievement of a Curriculum for Excellence level through further moderation across the nursery and school.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 St Joseph's RC Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	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=4600>

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

James P. McCrory
HM Inspector