

24 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Fountainhall 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 leadership of the headteacher and principal teacher in ensuring that the wellbeing of children is central to the work of all. As a result of their shared vision for the nursery class and school, all staff have a clear focus on supporting all children to achieve their full potential. The strong sense of teamwork results in an inclusive, family ethos.
- The very successful approaches to meeting the learning needs of all children in the multi-stage composite class. The skilled senior leaders, teachers and support staff work together closely to provide a nurturing and highly motivating learning environment for children.
- Happy, articulate and confident children who are very proud of their nursery class and school. They have increasing ownership of their learning and show respect, empathy and kindness to each other.
- High standards in the teaching of literacy across the nursery class and school. Children at all stages are making very good progress in this area of learning.

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

- Continue to take forward plans to refresh the unique curriculum offer for learners at Fountainhall, with a focus on developing children's skills for learning, life and work.
- Continue to raise attainment in numeracy and mathematics, ensuring that all children are supported and challenged to make the best possible progress.

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 Fountainhall Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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=2646>

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

Lesley A Allan
HM Inspector