

20 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cardenden 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 staff team knows the children, their families and the community very well. Staff across the nursery and the primary stages are committed to the care and wellbeing of all children. They demonstrate warm and supportive relationships across the school and nursery.
- The willingness of teachers, practitioners and support staff to improve the school and engage in their own professional learning.
- The building and extensive outdoor grounds offer a high quality environment for learning and teaching. Children have access to a range of learning spaces. This offers potential for rich learning opportunities across the curriculum.

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

- Establish effective approaches to evaluate the quality of the school's work. This should inform and support the headteacher and staff to prioritise and plan improvements across the school and nursery
- Improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment to ensure a consistently high quality for all children across the school.
- Improve approaches to meeting the learning and wellbeing needs of all children including those who require additional support for learning.
- Improve children's learning experiences, progress and attainment across all areas of the curriculum, particularly in reading, writing, numeracy and mathematics.

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 Cardenden Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>weak</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>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</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=1914>

### What happens next?

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

Susan Duff  
HM Inspector