

26 November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Meadowburn Primary School, Gaelic Unit (primary and sgoil àraich (nursery)) 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. They apply to both Gaelic and English Medium Education unless otherwise stated.

- The headteacher is respected and supportive. She places value on providing a positive environment in which children enjoy learning and achieve success across nursery and primary stages. As a result, children feel safe and part of a strong whole-school community. They enjoy success in a range of wider achievements in and out with school, and are proud of their recent Digital Schools Award.
- Staff work well in teams, within both the nursery and primary classes. They know children and families well. They engage regularly in professional learning and are improving further their professional knowledge and practice, which is having a positive impact on outcomes for children.
- Leadership and team work in the English medium nursery are influencing positively the progress of change, which ensure quality early learning experiences for children. Children in the nursery are making good progress in learning.
- Staff and parents have worked together in a positive way to develop successful Gaelic Medium Education (GME) at Meadowburn Primary School. The sgoil àraich (nursery) provides a strong start to developing children's early fluency in Gaelic. Children continue to make progress in speaking Gaelic as they move through the school.

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

- To support improved use of information and data, practitioners and teachers working across the nursery and primary stages, should review approaches to assessment. This includes reviewing tracking and monitoring of children's progress across all curriculum areas, including health and wellbeing. Practitioners and teachers need to analyse information gathered from their systems, and use this to further improve outcomes for children.
- Across the primary school and nursery, practitioners and teachers need to develop greater consistency in learning and teaching to ensure high quality experiences for all learners.

- Across the nursery and primary stages, practitioners and teachers need to continue to improve the curriculum to ensure children make progress across all areas within relevant learning contexts. This should include well-planned opportunities for learning outdoors and developing skills for learning, life and work.
- Senior leaders and staff need to continue to develop high-quality GME by providing total immersion in the sgoil àraich all of the time. At the primary stages, children's skills in writing Gaelic need to be improved.

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 Meadowburn Primary School, Gaelic unit and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the English medium nursery class.

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	very good
Quality of environment	very good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

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=3624>

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

Dennise Sommerville
HM Inspector

Claire Reilly
Care Inspector