

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 14 March 2019

Report by: Director of Children's Services

**Heading: Inspection of St Catherine's Primary School and Nursery Class,
Paisley**

1. Summary

- 1.1 St Catherine's Primary School and nursery class was inspected by Education Scotland in December 2018 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 26th February 2019 is attached as an appendix to this report. The letter to parents is also available from the director of children's services or from the Education Scotland website: <https://education.gov.scot/>.
- 1.2 Education Scotland uses different models of inspection and at St. Catherine's Primary School the duration of the inspection was three days i.e. the short model. Inspectors assessed the school, with a focus on two quality indicators which were: learning, teaching and assessment and raising attainment and achievement. In the nursery class, the focus was on learning, teaching and assessment and securing children's progress.
- 1.3 This was a very positive inspection which evaluated the two quality indicators in the school as 'very good' and also the two quality indicators in the nursery class as 'very good'. The letter to parents identified four key strengths of the school. These were:
 - Children who are confident, motivated and highly engaged in their learning. Their views are valued and are used well to inform the work of the school.

- Children are attaining very well in literacy and numeracy. They have a very good understanding about the skills they are developing and how they will use these skills in their life, learning and work.
- The headteacher, depute headteacher and staff team have created an extremely positive and nurturing learning environment. All staff have very high expectations of pupils and everyone within the school community feel equally valued for their contributions.
- The high-quality support offered to children, parents and families. Staff intervene to help families as early as possible to ensure children have the best possible opportunities to achieve success.

1.4 The letter to parents also identified two areas for further improvement:

- Staff should continue to build on the high-quality learning and teaching.
- Further extend opportunities for children to apply their learning in a range of contexts.

1.5 Children's services has an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. The school and the service will prepare a short action plan (detailed within the School Improvement Plan) indicating how they will address the points for action in the report, and share this plan with parents. In addition, the school will be supported in its continued improvement by children's services.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 Members of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board are asked to note the key strengths and the areas for improvement in the Education Scotland report on St Catherine's Primary School and Nursery Class.

3. **Background**

3.1 Education Scotland's letters to parents are published online by Education Scotland.

3.2 The report includes two recommendations for improvement. This will be addressed through the school's improvement plan, produced by the school and supported by children's services staff.

3.3 Progress on the school improvement plan will be monitored by children's services staff through the Quality Improvement Framework.

- 3.4 Children's services welcomes the process of audit undertaken by Education Scotland as supportive to continuous improvement in Renfrewshire education establishments. The inspection report will be used by the school and the service in the context of supporting and developing the quality of educational provision.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial:** None
2. **HR & Organisational Development:** None
3. **Community/Council Planning –**
 - Our Renfrewshire is thriving: high standards of education provision ensure that children and young people are given the best start in life so that they promote and contribute to a more prosperous, fairer society.
 - Our Renfrewshire is well – by providing an environment which encourages care, welfare and development, establishments play a crucial role in developing children and young people so that they become responsible citizens. The establishment's success in promoting wellbeing is evaluated as part of the inspection process.
4. **Legal:** None
5. **Property:** None
6. **Information Technology:** None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety:** None
9. **Procurement:** None
10. **Risk:** None
11. **Privacy Impact:** None

12. **Cosla Policy Position:** Not applicable

List of Background Papers

None

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Appendix 1

26 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Catherine's 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.

- ✓ Children who are confident, motivated and highly engaged in their learning. Their views are valued and are used well to inform the work of the school.
- ✓ Children are attaining very well in literacy and numeracy. They have a very good understanding about the skills they are developing and how they will use these skills in their life, learning and work.
- ✓ The headteacher, depute headteacher and staff team have created an extremely positive and nurturing learning environment. All staff have very high expectations of pupils and everyone within the school community feel equally valued for their contributions.
- ✓ The high-quality support offered to children, parents and families. Staff intervene to help families as early as possible to ensure children have the best possible opportunities to achieve success.

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

- ✓ Staff should continue to build on the high quality learning and teaching.
- ✓ Further extend opportunities for children to apply their learning in a range of contexts.

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 Catherine's Primary School and Nursery Class

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

This letter and a more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8625727>

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

Monica McGeever
HM Inspector