

**To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board**

**On: 22 August 2019**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Todholm Primary School and Early Learning Childcare Class**

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 Todholm Primary School and Early Learning Childcare Class was inspected by Education Scotland in March 2019 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 21 May 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 The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the quality of education. Inspectors assessed the school, with a focus on four quality indicators which were: leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; raising attainment and achievement; and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. Inspectors also assessed the nursery class with a focus on four quality indicators which were: leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; securing children's progress and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion.

1.3 This was an extremely positive inspection with an evaluation of 'excellent' for leadership of change. All other quality indicators were evaluated as 'very good'. The learning, teaching and assessment within the nursery was evaluated as 'good'.

The letter to parents also identified six key strengths of the school. These were:

- Confident children who benefit from nurturing relationships with staff and each other. They enjoy learning within a wide range of interesting contexts

- The work of the school to promote reading and the very positive impact on children, their families and the wider community.
- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher and her ability to empower both staff and children to lead areas of the school. She has established the school as a valued part of the local and wider community.
- The very positive impact of family learning. As a result of the welcoming ethos and range of opportunities to work with the school, parents and families are ably supporting children's learning and developing new skills.
- The role of the nursery in leading the Early Years Local Learning Community. This work is reaching into the local community and having a significant impact on children and families.
- The range and quality of professional learning undertaken by all staff across the school and the nursery and how this is leading to creative and motivating learning experiences for children.

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

- Staff should continue with their plans to review how they plan and assess learning.
- Continue to help children understand and develop skills for life, learning and work.

1.5 Children's services has an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. The school and the service will agree actions 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 staff.

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## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board are asked to note the key strengths and the area for improvement in the Education Scotland report on Todholm Primary School and Early Learning Childcare Class.

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## **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. These 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 on a proportionate basis.
  - 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.

13. **Climate Risk** - None.

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**List of Background Papers**

None

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TG/LMcA/LG  
13 August 2019

**Author:** Trevor Gray, Education Officer tel: 0141 618 7224

21 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Todholm Primary School and Early Learning Childcare 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 children who benefit from nurturing relationships with staff and each other. They enjoy learning within a wide range of interesting contexts.
- The work of the school to promote reading and the very positive impact on children, their families and the wider community.
- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher and her ability to empower both staff and children to lead areas of the school. She has established the school as a valued part of the local and wider community.
- The very positive impact of family learning. As a result of the welcoming ethos and range of opportunities to work with the school, parents and families are ably supporting children's learning and developing new skills.
- The role of the nursery in leading the Early Years Local Learning Community. This work is reaching into the local community and having a significant impact on children and families.
- The range and quality of professional learning undertaken by all staff across the school and the nursery and how this is leading to creative and motivating learning experiences for children.

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

- Staff should continue with their plans to review how they plan and assess learning.
- Continue to help children understand and develop skills for life, learning and work.

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 Todholm Primary School and Early Learning Childcare Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>excellent</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</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>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very 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/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8626626>

### 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