

14 February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2016 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Baljaffray Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and young people's success and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The leadership of the headteacher in establishing a welcoming ethos, and developing a culture to support and promote change and improvement in the nursery and across the school.
- Well behaved, polite, articulate children who are enthusiastic learners who enjoy talking about what they have learned, in school and beyond.
- The school has established strong relationships within the nursery and at the primary stages. This extends across the school community, including partnerships with very supportive parents. The quality of the relationships supports a warm learning environment where children feel safe, and all are valued.

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

- The school should further develop learning pathways to ensure children make progress across all areas of the curriculum. This includes a need to develop a unique curriculum rationale which offers all children rich and relevant experiences in the classroom and outdoors.
- Continue to improve approaches to learning and teaching to ensure all learners are engaged in appropriately motivating and challenging learning, in a setting where they have opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills in relevant real life experiences.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*¹. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland’s evaluations for Baljaffray Primary School and Nursery Class:

Primary stages

Leadership of Change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

Nursery class

Leadership of Change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Securing children’s progress	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

The letter is available on the Education Scotland website at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/primsec/BaljaffrayPrimarySchoolEastDunbartonshire.asp>

¹ *How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

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.

Susan Duff
HM Inspector

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