

5 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Priorsford 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 supportive and approachable headteacher. She has led the establishment of a warm and welcoming 'family' ethos, which is underpinned by positive relationships and mutual respect.
- Staff who work well together as a team. They engage enthusiastically in professional learning. This supports the process of change in driving forward improvement and securing positive outcomes for children.
- Children who are well behaved, articulate and engaged in the life of the school and nursery. They are enthusiastic learners who are supportive of each other and proud of their school and setting. Children are eager to learn and do well.
- The partnerships with parents, partners and the wider community to create an enriching learning environment for children. They give effective support to the school and nursery and their input is valued by all staff and children.

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

- Improve the strategic leadership of the school and nursery. This will ensure the senior leadership team is able to more effectively prioritise and guide improvement that leads to improved outcomes for children.
- Continue to develop consistency in teaching and learning with a focus on pace and challenge for all learners. Staff should ensure there are more opportunities for children to identify and build on their own personal learning targets and monitor progress towards achieving these.
- Develop the curriculum and learning pathways to ensure children make progress across all areas of the curriculum. Children's progress in health and wellbeing should be tracked through the development of a well-considered pathway for health and wellbeing.
- Continue to raise attainment and achievement for all children. This should include the improvement of systems for monitoring and tracking children's wider achievements. This will help inform and support the further development of children's skills for learning, life and work.

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 Priorsford Primary School 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	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/scottish-borders/5601126>

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. Scottish Borders 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