23 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Muirhead Primary School and Early Years Centre. 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 positive and respectful relationships between all staff and children in the school and Early Years Centre. This results in almost all children feeling nurtured and well supported in their learning.
- The effective leadership provided by the headteacher. In her short time in post, she has worked collaboratively with staff to improve outcomes for all children.
- The relevant and interesting learning experiences offered by teachers in a range of contexts, including through outdoor learning. This results in almost all children being engaged in their learning and is helping children to develop knowledge and skills across the curriculum.
- The effective teamwork and communication within the Early Years Centre which has resulted in positive improvements to the indoor and outdoor learning environments. Children benefit from the range of interesting and stimulating experiences which is impacting positively on their progress.

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

- Practitioners in the Early Years Centre should ensure planning demonstrates how children influence and lead their learning. Senior leaders should continue to gather information on all children's learning to demonstrate progress over time.
- Teachers across the school should continue to plan tasks and activities set at the right level of difficulty for all children. This will help to ensure children make the best possible progress in all areas of the curriculum.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.

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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 Muirhead Primary School and Early Years Centre

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

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare. The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	**very good**
1.1 Nurturing care and support	**very good**
1.3 Play and learning	**very good**
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	**good**
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	**good**

Requirements and areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no areas for improvement.

This letter and a more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | Education Scotland

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

Robyn McIlroy
HM Inspector

Katrina Kennedy
Care Inspector

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