10 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Drymen 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 clear, well directed and effective leadership of the headteacher ably supported by the senior leadership team. The headteacher and senior leadership team have established positive relationships with children, parents and staff and have a nurturing and aspirational vision for all children who attend Drymen Primary School and Nursery Class.
- The strong focus on emotional wellbeing across the school and nursery. This work is supporting all children to feel cared for and ready to learn.
- Motivated children in the nursery and school who share warm, respectful relationships with each other and with staff. They engage well in a wide range of learning experiences, both indoors and outside, which enhance and extend their learning.
- Staff in the nursery and school who are enthusiastic to lead change. They feel trusted and respected by senior leaders to lead change to improve learning experiences and outcomes for children.
- The wide range of partners who support the wellbeing of children and families. This is supporting children to engage in learning.

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

- In the nursery, senior leaders should improve approaches to planning for children who require additional support for their learning. They should ensure they set clear, measurable targets to help all children to make good progress.
- In the nursery, practitioners should work with teachers and staff within the school to develop approaches to raising children's awareness of the diverse world in which they live.
- In the school, teachers should continue to improve the consistency of high-quality learning and teaching. This will support all children to make the progress they are capable of.

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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 Drymen Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	**very good**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	**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
Leadership of change	**very good**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**very good**
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	**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	

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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?	**good**
1.1 Nurturing care and support	**good**
1.3 Play and learning	**very good**
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	**very good**
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	**very good**
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	**very good**
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	**very good**
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	**very good**
4.3 Staff deployment	**very good**

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

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

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

As a result of the inspection, the following areas for improvement have been made.

1. To consistently respect children's rights, needs and choices, the provider should ensure staff receive and implement training on approaches which develop their

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understanding of children's rights. This should include, but is not limited to, developing sensitive and compassionate responses to children's actions and ensuring that children's choices are respected.

- This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: "My views will always be sought, and my choices respected, including when I have reduced capacity to fully make my own decisions" (HSCS 2.11).

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
Drymen Primary School | Inspection Report | Education Scotland.

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

Denise Penman
HM Inspector

Aaron Brown
Care Inspector

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