

3 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Stirches 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 relatively new headteacher has established a strong and positive culture in the school and nursery. Children behave very well and there is a calm and purposeful environment for learning.
- Teachers and senior leaders have worked well together to ensure children experience high-quality learning, teaching and assessment across the school. They have improved their approaches to using data to identify gaps in children's learning.
- Practitioners in the nursery engage children well through a range of learning experiences indoors and outdoors. They have a strong focus on helping all children to achieve the best possible outcomes.

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

- Senior leaders should support teachers to reflect on their practice to make sure it is improving children's progress in learning.
- Teachers and practitioners need to involve children in planning what and how they learn. This will ensure children know how well they are progressing.
- Staff should continue to raise children's levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy at all stages.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Stirches Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</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>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and Review](#) | [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. 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.

Ann Floyd  
HM Inspector