

18 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited St Mark's RC 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.

- Confident, respectful children who demonstrate a good understanding of their school and nursery values. They are enthusiastic, caring learners who support each other well and proudly welcome visitors to their school and nursery.
- All staff work very well together. As a team they create a nurturing and welcoming learning environment for children that supports positive relationships and wellbeing.
- Successful approaches to meeting the wellbeing needs of children. Staff across the school and nursery have formed close, positive relationships with children and their families. This leads to happy children who behave very well and are keen to learn.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from The City of Edinburgh Council.

- Staff should improve further approaches to evaluating the work of the school and nursery. They should do this with a continued focus on improving outcomes for all children.
- Staff should review approaches to planning of learning, teaching and assessment. Improved planning will support staff to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching.
- Staff should continue to improve and increase opportunities for children to lead learning across the school and nursery. They should ensure that experiences are well matched to children's needs and interests.
- Staff should continue to develop approaches for checking children's progress. All staff should work together to ensure they have a clear focus on raising attainment of all children.

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 St Mark's RC Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	

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	good
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	good
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	adequate
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	good
4.3 Staff deployment	good

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

As a result of the inspection, the following requirements have been made.

By 30 April 2024 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, the provider must ensure the premises are safe. The outdoor environment should be free from hazards and the required repair on the drain cover should be addressed.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy and well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment'. (HSCS 5.24).

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.

To ensure children are supported to achieve, staff should develop the way they record and plan for children's learning. This should recognise significant learning and development as well as identifying how children can be supported in future. This should be responsive to children's needs and choices.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices'. (HSCS 1.15).

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

Requirements:

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and three areas for improvement. These three areas for improvement have been met.

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

Anne Graham
HM Inspector

Joanne Duncan
Care Inspector