

16 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Whitecrook Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The nursery class was inspected as part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using [the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors](#).

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Staff strongly demonstrate high levels of warmth, care and kindness. They understand the different needs of children well and work hard to support the children in their care. Staff demonstrate a strong sense of teamwork and create a supportive environment where children and colleagues feel valued.
- Children are friendly and welcoming to visitors and are eager to share their school experiences. They engage positively in small group discussions and activities.
- In the nursery, staff create outdoor learning spaces which are thoughtfully planned and inspire children's curiosity. This helps children to explore, solve problems and enjoy their learning.

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

- Senior leaders and staff need to strengthen approaches to school improvement. This includes having a clear focus on a few key priorities that will make the biggest difference for children.
- Senior leaders need to improve approaches to meeting the wellbeing needs of all children. In doing so, they must develop more consistent approaches to support children to manage their behaviour. They should do this in consultation with children, staff, parents and partners.
- Teachers should develop a shared understanding of effective learning, teaching and assessment. This should include consistent and high quality approaches that help children improve their focus and concentration on learning. Children need more opportunities to practise and apply their skills on a regular basis.
- Senior leaders and staff need to help children make better progress in learning and improve attainment in literacy and numeracy.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school \(4th edition\)](#).

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 Whitecrook Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare

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

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the ELC's work using three quality indicators from [the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors](#). As this inspection is part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors, these quality indicators have not been graded.

Quality indicators for the nursery class
Curriculum
Learning, teaching and assessment
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Whitecrook Primary School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with West Dunbartonshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with West Dunbartonshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Liz Sommerville
HM Inspector