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Dear Parent/Carer

### **HM Inspection Report – St Ninian’s Primary School**

Education Scotland published a report on the standards and quality in St Ninian’s Primary School on 29 August 2017; following an inspection of the school in May 2017.

#### **This inspection found the following key strengths:**

- The effective leadership of the headteacher in establishing a very positive and nurturing ethos across the school. This is underpinned by the school values which are based on the Catholic faith. The importance the school places on wellbeing, respect and achievement results in children who feel confident, cared for and are positive about their learning.
- The commitment of all staff to improving outcomes for children. Staff work together very well to develop their practice and to improve the school.
- The school’s success in improving the wellbeing of all children. Staff identify and meet a wide range of needs. They work closely with families and provide a high quality of support to children with barriers to learning.
- The positive start the school has made to enriching children’s learning through approaches to developing creativity and skills. Children are highly motivated by the idea of ‘Ninivators’ which is helping them to develop skills for learning, life and work.

#### **The inspection team discussed with staff and the education authority how the school might continue to improve. This is what we agreed:**

- Develop approaches to self-evaluation to further inform improvement across the school.
- Make better use of tracking information to support continuous improvement in attainment.
- Continue to develop learning and teaching so that all children experience appropriate pace and challenge in their learning and make well-paced progress.

The school prepared an improvement plan indicating how it would address the main points for action identified in the report. Staff from the council’s Education Improvement Service visited St Ninian’s Primary School to assess the extent to which the school was continuing to improve the quality of its work, and evaluate the progress made in relation to the main points for action in the report.

#### **How well do children learn and achieve?**

Children in St Ninian’s Primary School continue to be very motivated to learn and happily engage in their learning. The school continues to provide a wide variety of opportunities both within and beyond the classroom including a range of pupil groups, visits, clubs and participation in various competitions and events. Learning experiences are enhanced by a range of useful partnerships with local and national organisations such as Drumchapel Life and Save the Children.

### **How well does the school support children to develop and learn?**

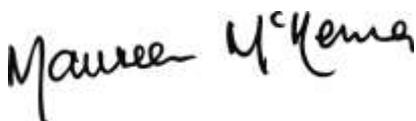
Staff at St Ninian's Primary School continue to demonstrate dedication to meeting the varying needs of children across the school. Building on the Success of *The Sunshine Room* a similar learning space has been created to provide appropriate support for older children in order to ensure activities and approaches are tailored to individual needs. Staff have successfully engaged with the national Benchmarks and have updated their planning for Literacy, Numeracy and Science to reflect these. Interdisciplinary Learning, Expressive Arts and Health and Wellbeing are currently being revised to ensure they reflect national guidance. Teaching approaches across the school have developed so that the 'good lesson' structure is now much more consistent. These improvements have led to more appropriate pace and challenge for all pupils ensuring well-paced progress. Plans are in place for staff to work in *Teacher Learning Communities* next session through their participation in a Tapestry Training Programme to further enhance their approaches to learning, teaching and assessment. The school has further developed its approaches to tracking. Using a wide range of data senior leaders have a strategic overview which has enabled them to better analyse the progress and attainment of individuals and groups. This has allowed the school to target appropriate interventions and monitor their impact to ensure continuous improvement.

### **How well does the school improve the quality of its work?**

A comprehensive calendar ensures that self-evaluation is ongoing throughout the year. The school makes good use of *How Good is Our School?* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) to reflect on its work. Staff work collaboratively to take forward improvement priorities. As well as the Parent Council, a Parent Working Group has been influential in school improvements such as increased parent, pupil and teacher meetings and an improved school report. Pupils are becoming more actively involved in evaluation and improvement. Pupil Representatives have, for example, helped develop new approaches to learning conversations and reporting. The school continues to work collaboratively with other schools through moderation activities and its work to raise attainment and close the attainment gap through Glasgow's Improvement Challenge. The impact of improvement priorities and PEF interventions is carefully monitored through the analysis of data to ensure improved outcomes for all children.

Since the original inspection report, the school has made very good progress in meeting the recommendations in the report. The effective leadership of the headteacher and commitment of all staff to working together to develop their practice has resulted in more consistent learning experiences for children. The school is using tracking information well to identify attainment and achievement gaps and target appropriate interventions. The involvement of pupils and parents in self-evaluation and improvement work is having a positive impact. St Ninian's Primary School provides children with a very good and caring learning environment. It is very well placed to continue to improve.

Yours sincerely



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Executive Director of Education

cc Jim Wilson, Head of Service  
Julie Steel, Acting Area Education Officer/Quality Improvement Officer