

24 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Whitelees 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.

- Children across the school and nursery are articulate, happy, confident and keen to learn. They demonstrate the school and nursery values very well. They have a strong sense of belonging to their school and nursery.
- The headteacher provides highly effective leadership and direction for the school community. She is supported very well by the two principal teachers. Together with all staff, they have created a very positive and purposeful culture and ethos across the school and nursery. This is underpinned by clear expectations and high standards.
- Staff across the school and nursery are highly responsive to children's needs. They help children to feel safe, valued and nurtured. This is having a positive impact on children's engagement and progress in their learning.
- The staff team across the school and nursery are highly reflective practitioners. They are committed to making improvements to their practice through ongoing professional learning and development. This is demonstrated through the high-quality approaches to learning and teaching across the school.
- Children have high levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy. They use their skills and knowledge very well across their learning, including outdoors.

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

- In the nursery, staff should continue to evaluate the effectiveness of approaches to supporting transitions throughout the day. They should ensure that children experience a purposeful, calm environment for learning across their full day.
- In the nursery, staff should further develop approaches to tracking individual children's learning across the curriculum with a clear focus on skills and learning. They should ensure that children's learning builds consistently on what they already know and can do across the curriculum.



- In the school, teachers should continue to develop their approaches to delivering consistently high-quality learning experiences for all children. This should include opportunities for children to take increasing responsibility in leading their learning.

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 HMIE's evaluations for Whitelees Primary School and nursery class

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very 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	

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](#).

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

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: [Whitelees Primary School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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. North Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Victoria Morgan
HM Inspector

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland