

30 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kingsford 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 who are proud to be part of Kingsford School and Nursery Class and who are friendly, respectful, increasingly motivated, and making steady progress in reading and writing.
- The hard working staff team across the primary stages who are keen to support improvement and deliver positive outcomes for children.
- The cohesive staff team in the nursery class who are successfully embracing new ways of planning, facilitating and supporting children's learning.
- The effectiveness of the nursery's outdoor learning environment in sustaining and extending children's curiosity and motivations to learn.

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

- Improve the strategic leadership of the school to ensure that key elements of the work of the school fully reflect national guidance.
- Review the remits of the senior leadership team and take prompt action to update school policies and practices related to supporting children's wellbeing, equality and inclusion.
- Build on good practice to bring about consistently high-quality experiences and a sound understanding of the value of learning through play, particularly at the early primary stages.
- Continue as planned to refresh the school's curriculum rationale to better reflect the unique context of Kingsford Primary School and Nursery Class. This includes extending the range of partners to support the delivery of the curriculum, with a stronger emphasis on developing children's skills for learning, life and work.
- Establish an effective system for planning, tracking and monitoring attainment and children's wider achievements. Develop assessment approaches which are focussed on bringing about further improvement in children's 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? \(4th edition\)](#) 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 Kingsford Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
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	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/aberdeen-city/5241820>

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 Aberdeen City 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 Aberdeen City 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.

Dr Marion Burns
HM Inspector