

4 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Meethill 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.

- The nurturing and supportive relationships across the school and nursery class leading to children's readiness to learn.
- The staff team across the school and nursery class who work well together and are ready to develop their skills and knowledge to improve learning experiences.
- In the nursery setting, practitioners use of the outdoor environment to skilfully support children to be creative, curious and confident.

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

- Improve children's attainment in literacy and numeracy. Staff should establish a clear strategy to raise attainment and achievement for all children across the school and nursery class which increases expectations of standards and progression in learning.
- Work as a team to ensure all children experience high quality learning and teaching.
- Staff should ensure all children have increased opportunities to lead their own learning and be more involved in evaluating their own progress.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Meethill Primary School and Nursery Class

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

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of management and leadership	good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and two recommendation. Both recommendations have been met. As a result of this inspection, there are no further recommendations.

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

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=3634>

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 Aberdeenshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within twelve months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Aberdeenshire 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.

Scott Lavery
HM Inspector

Maureen Mathieson
Care Inspector