

20 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Port Elphinstone 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 headteacher and the nursery manager provide effective leadership which supports, guides and motivates the staff team very well. This is increasing the school's capacity for continuous change and improving outcomes for children.
- Staff have created an inclusive and nurturing learning environment. Positive relationships are a strength of the school and nursery. Staff's passion for and commitment to children's wellbeing underpins their work. This is leading to children who are confident, secure and happy in the school and nursery.
- Children across the school and nursery are polite, caring and engage well in learning. They are very supportive of each other and demonstrate the school values well.
- Staff work effectively with their partners to enhance children's learning and improve outcomes for children and families.

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

- Across the school, staff should continue to ensure a consistent approach to high-quality learning and teaching. This includes using assessment information more clearly to ensure learning is planned at the right level of difficulty for all children.
- In the school, the headteacher and teachers should plan and monitor carefully the impact of all interventions. This could help them to identify the interventions which are making the biggest difference for children.
- Staff in the school should continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- In the nursery, staff need to continue to develop planning, assessment and tracking procedures. This will help provide them with clear information about children's progress. They should use this information to plan targeted interventions for children who require additional support or challenge.

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 Port Elphinstone School and Nursery Class

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

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Securing children's progress	good
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:

[Port Elphinstone School | Inspection Report | Education 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. Aberdeenshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Jennifer Wadley
HM Inspector