

9 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Tarland 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 positive and caring relationships between children and staff which support an inclusive learning climate across the nursery and primary classes. Children are proud of their school and its links to the community.
- Well behaved and motivated children who are keen to do their best in their learning and can talk confidently about their achievements.
- Teachers and staff who work well collaboratively and are committed to improvement.
- High quality interactions by the nursery team which ensure that children receive positive learning experiences to help them make progress in their learning.

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

- Led by the headteacher, teachers and staff in the nursery and primary classes should develop and implement a consistent approach to planning and assessment across the curriculum. This will help them to identify progress and next steps reliably.
- The headteacher should enable teachers to have direct responsibility for tracking and monitoring attainment data so that they can develop a better understanding of children's progression across the curriculum.
- The headteacher and staff should continue to improve learning and teaching to ensure that there is appropriate pace and challenge for every child so that they can engage fully with all aspects of their learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Tarland Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
<b>Quality of care and support</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Quality of environment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	<b>good</b>

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and one recommendation. From this, one recommendation has been met. Outstanding issues relating to

CI to provide details are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no 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=4917>

### 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.

Ken McAra  
HM Inspector

Jan Davidson  
Care Inspector