

12 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited New Machar 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.

- Across the school and nursery, children are polite, well-mannered and attentive. They are welcoming and friendly, and enjoy sharing their learning with others. They are proud of their school.
- Across the school and nursery, nurturing relationships between the staff and children are based on mutual respect, understanding and kindness. This is supporting an inclusive culture across the school and nursery.
- Senior leaders and teacher's track children's progress over time well. They use information effectively to identify children who require additional support for learning. They plan and implement timely interventions to improve progress in learning for identified children.
- Nursery staff support children to settle quickly into the setting. They support children to develop confidence in their learning and play well.

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

- Across the school and nursery staff should work together to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching. This will help to ensure appropriate pace and challenge to reflect the range of needs of all learners. Senior leaders should continue to monitor the quality of learning and teaching to ensure all children are making good progress in their learning.
- Across the school and nursery staff should continue to develop their approaches to observations and assessment. Staff should have a clear focus on learning and the specific skills children are developing and applying. This will help them to identify and plan clear next steps across the curriculum for all children.
- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school and nursery.

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 New Machar Primary School and Nursery Class.

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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
Learning, teaching and assessment	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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | 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.

Victoria Morgan
HM Inspector