

12 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited St Andrew's 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, across the school and the nursery, are happy and demonstrate the school values well. They understand the importance of being kind, helpful and inclusive.
- The well-respected headteacher, ably supported by her deputies and senior practitioner, lead the school and nursery with compassion and integrity. They empower others, including children, to take on leadership roles.
- Staff, working closely together, have created calm, purposeful learning environments across the school and the nursery. These support children well to build strong, trusting relationships and make progress in their learning.
- Children in the nursery, have opportunities to learn using a wide range of digital technologies across both playrooms. This supports children to develop rich and meaningful digital skills.

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

- Teachers need to improve the quality of teaching and ensure consistency across all stages. This should include more creative approaches to learning and better meet the needs of all children.
- Senior leaders, together with teachers, should review what children learn to ensure they experience all curricular areas more often. This will provide all children with opportunities to develop essential skills for learning, life and work.
- Staff should work together to continue to raise achievement and attainment for all children. This includes raising expectations of what children can do and supporting children to become more confident in numeracy and mathematics.
- In the nursery, senior leaders and the local authority should work together to review and clarify their roles and responsibilities. This should lead to a clear structure of leadership which would support all aspects of improvement and lead to better outcomes for children.

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 St Andrew's Primary School and Nursery Class

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

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	good
1.3 Play and learning	good
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	good
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	good
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	very good
4.3 Staff deployment	very good

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no areas for improvement were made.

Previous requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and one area for improvement. From this inspection, the previous area for improvement has been met.

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

[St Andrew's Primary 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.

Frances E. Graham
HM Inspector

Aaron Brown
Care Inspector