

18 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Newtonhill 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, supportive and inclusive ethos provided by the staff team. Together, they create a calm, welcoming learning environment where relationships are characterised by mutual respect.
- The articulate, friendly children, who are embracing the increasing opportunities to play an active role in the school and nursery.
- The school's approaches to tracking children's progress and wellbeing. Led by the headteacher, staff are now well placed to use this information to raise attainment.

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

- Develop a shared understanding of what constitutes effective, high quality teaching, learning at Newtonhill Primary.
- Raise attainment by using assessment information to inform high quality, planned learning and teaching, ensuring appropriate pace and challenge for all children.
- Develop in children a better understanding of themselves as learners and the skills they are developing.

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 Newtonhill 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	satisfactory
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	

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/aberdeenshire/5251028>

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.

Pamela Adamson
HM Inspector