

18 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Boddam Primary School and nursery class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's success and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Friendly, well-mannered children who are proud of their school and eager to learn. They enjoy working and playing with their classmates.
- The strong collegiate environment led by the headteacher and the positive relationships between staff and children to support an improving climate for learning.
- The developing partnerships with parents who are keen to support change and contribute to school improvement.

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

- Improve the consistency of children's learning experiences and outcomes in the classroom. To do this staff need to increase the pace of learning and provide more challenging and relevant activities better matched to children's needs and abilities. In addition staff should put in place effective assessment arrangements to support learning. These need to focus on clear smart targets and include regular evaluation of latest and best progress.
- The school should continue with its plans to develop staff's shared understanding of progression in order to assure accurate monitoring and tracking of progress. Staff need to have more opportunities within and beyond the cluster to moderate achievement at all levels.
- The school should continue with its work to develop well-considered wellbeing programmes that are relevant to the needs of young people. This should include approaches to track and monitor progress in this area to continue to improve the wellbeing outcomes for all learners.
- Improve attainment in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*¹. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Boddam Primary School

Primary stages

Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory

Nursery class

Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at
<https://education.gov.scot/reports/aberdeenshire/5215625>.

¹ *How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016 – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)*

What happens next?

We will liaise with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 15 months of publication of this letter. We will discuss with Aberdeenshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Aileen Monaghan
HM Inspector

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