

12 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2023, inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lumsden School. 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.

- Articulate, enthusiastic and happy children who clearly demonstrate their school values. They engage well in learning across the curriculum, both indoors and outside. Children are very proud of their school.
- The effective leadership of the headteacher in leading change. She is driven by high aspirations for children and her vision for close community partnership. She is well respected by children, staff, parents and partners.
- The strong teamwork of all school staff. They are sensitive and responsive to the wellbeing of children. Their nurturing and supportive approaches create an inclusive and positive learning environment for children.
- The effective partnership working with parents and local community partners. Creative joint projects enhance children's learning experiences and support achievement, particularly in the arts.

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

- As planned, develop further opportunities for children to take leadership of their own learning. This should include staff developing questioning to support children's critical thinking.
- Continue to develop ways to record evaluations of children's learning. This will help to track in more detail the progress children are making in their learning.
- As planned, support children to identify and discuss the skills they are developing across the curriculum and through wider school experiences.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Lumsden School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: 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.

Lisa Marie McDonnell
HM Inspector