

4 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Grantown 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, who are enthusiastic and proud of their achievements across the school and nursery.
- The teamwork of all staff across the school and nursery.

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

- Strengthen the leadership and direction of the school and nursery. The senior leadership team need to plan for improvement in a more strategic and focused way. In doing so, they need to monitor closely the impact of the nursery's and school's work to raise attainment and improve outcomes for children.
- Improve learning, teaching and assessment to ensure children are fully engaged in their learning and that learning experiences are of a consistently high quality across the school and nursery. Staff recognise the need to continue to promote positive behaviour and respect in all aspects of school life.
- Improve how staff use information on children's progress across the school and nursery to ensure that children's work helps improve their attainment. Staff should develop consistent approaches to planning, tracking and monitoring.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the schools 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 Grantown Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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	weak
Securing children's progress	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	adequate
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	adequate
Quality of management and leadership	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and three recommendations. From these three recommendations have been met. As a result of this inspection, there is one requirement and three recommendations.

Requirement:

- We require the provider of the service to ensure chronological records linked to the care of children are fully maintained and stored securely.
This is in order to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (Scottish Statutory Instrument 2011/210).

Timescale – This requirement is to be completed by 12 October 2018

Recommendations:

1. We would ask the service to ensure that care plan documentation used to record children's personal and individual care needs reflecting the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators, is shared and understood by all staff caring for the child. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'my care plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices'. (HSCS 1.15)
2. It is recommended that the manager or appropriate person regularly audits accident and incident reports to identify common features and how the service intends to minimise any identified risks to children. This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'my care and support is provided in a planned and safe way, including if there is an emergency or unexpected event'. (HSCS 4.14)
3. Staff should ensure they are familiar with current best practice guidance. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice'. (HSCS 4.16)

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5146127> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#)

What happens next?

We are not at present confident from our short visit that the school has effective arrangements for ensuring continuing improvement in the quality of education for all learners. We will return within 12 months from the publication of this letter to explore this further. After the return inspection we will report our findings to you.

Jacqueline Gallagher
HM Inspector

Rod Coltart
Care Inspector