

25 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Anna Ritchie School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- Led by the headteacher, all staff develop positive relationships with children and young people and their families. This supports a strong sense of community across the school. As a result, children and young people are happy and attend school regularly.
- Staff use their knowledge of children and young people's needs effectively to improve children and young people's wellbeing. This helps children and young people enjoy, and engage well in their learning.
- Children and young people's learning experiences in the local community are helping them to develop appropriate skills in real life contexts including when shopping in the local community.

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

- Senior leaders need to develop a more structured approach to how they plan to improve the school. They should seek to involve stakeholders more fully in how they identify and take forward areas for improvement.
- Teachers need to develop consistently high-quality learning and teaching approaches across the school. This should include developing further how they check on children and young people's progress to support all learners to make improved progress.
- Teachers should continue to improve young people's attainment in the broad general education and senior phase. They need to support young people in the senior phase to attain better in as wide a range of subjects as possible.

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 Anna Ritchie School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
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	

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

[Anna Ritchie 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.

Graeme Gordon
HM Inspector