

5 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Monquhitter 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.

- Led by the headteacher, high quality staff team collaboration across all stages of the school and nursery. Commitment of all to professional learning and development to support school improvement in a environment which is nurturing and encouraging.
- Articulate children whose behaviour is exemplary. They are proud of their school, enthusiastic and engaged in their learning.
- The improvement in children's reading skills and their increased enjoyment in reading.

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

- As the school continues to develop learning and teaching, staff should focus on developing children's skills in leading their own learning. There is a need for a structured approach to support children to become more independent in their learning, talk about their learning and be clear about their next steps.
- Continue to improve children's attainment in writing. In doing so, review the development of writing as planned and undertake further moderation activities to ensure there is a shared understanding of required standards of writing across the school.
- To improve attainment in numeracy, continue to focus on the development of mental agility and problem solving skills across the school.
- The school and nursery should continue to develop and streamline planning processes to record children's learning journey.

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 Monquhitter School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
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	very good
Quality of environment	very good
Quality of staffing	very good
Quality of management and leadership	very good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

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

This letter and 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/5218020> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#)

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.

Laura McLean
Managing Inspector

Lorraine Hendry
Care Inspector