

7 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Torphins 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.

- Across the school and nursery, children are welcoming and friendly. They are keen to share their ideas and experiences with others.
- In the nursery, skilled staff offer a rich range of play contexts for learning. As a result, children make good progress in their learning and development.

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

- Improve the overall quality of learning and teaching to better meet all children's needs and help to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school.
- Ensure all learning activities are planned at the right level of difficulty to enable all children in the school to make appropriate progress in their learning.
- Review approaches to tracking, monitoring and assessment in the primary stages to ensure that relevant information is gathered and used effectively to evaluate learning, inform planning and report on progress to parents.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Torphins Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>weak</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. 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 twelve months of the 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.

M. A. Speirs  
HM Inspector