

4 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Meiklemill 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.

- Happy, enthusiastic children who are ready to learn. Children who attend the school are keen to get involved in learning activities, work well together and support each other in their learning.
- Productive partnership working with local community bodies, partner agencies and parents. The school is particularly successful in encouraging all of these groups to become more involved in supporting children's learning.
- The positive approach to inclusion and equality in the school and nursery class.
- The positive encouragement and celebration of individual children's wider achievements. These are acknowledged and valued whatever they are and wherever they took place.

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

- Continue to improve learning and teaching to raise attainment and secure progress for all children.
- Enhance links between the work of the nursery class and the primary school. This will include partnership working at the early level and joint development of approaches towards learning, including the place of play in the curriculum.
- Continue to review and update curriculum pathways in line with national benchmarks to ensure that children experience an appropriate, high quality and progressive curriculum.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's 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 Meiklemill Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	good
Quality of staffing	good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

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

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

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=3636>

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.

Ken McAra
HM Inspector

Maureen Mathieson
Care Inspector