

28 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Auchnagatt School. 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.

- The headteacher and staff are respected and highly valued by children and their families. They provide a nurturing and supportive environment where children are happy, develop confidence and there is a strong sense of community.
- All staff provide well-considered and appropriate support for children who require it and have created an inclusive ethos across the school. As a result, children engage well with their learning and experiences within and beyond the classroom.
- Staff plan appropriate opportunities for all children to take part in leadership groups regularly as part of the curriculum. This is supporting children to develop well their leadership, communication and social skills.

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

- The headteacher should now streamline improvement planning priorities. With staff, she should identify improvement areas that can be developed over different timescales to ensure they are manageable, achievable and sustainable.
- Teachers should ensure they match consistently tasks and activities to children's individual strengths and needs. They now need to increase older children's progress and, as a result, attainment in literacy and numeracy. Teachers should build upon the strong approach at the early stages to ensure all children receive the correct level of challenge in their work.
- Staff should continue to develop children's understanding of themselves and their place in the wider world. They should build upon the work of children's leadership groups and assemblies to embed this across the curriculum.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Auchnagatt School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and Review](#) | [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.

Gillian Frew
HM Inspector