

18 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Hatton (Cruden) 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 recently established values are having a positive effect on the work of the school. Children are developing a good understanding of the importance of reflecting these values as they work and learn together.
- The headteacher has made a strong start to identifying the priorities for improvement. Under her effective leadership, teachers are ready to take forward changes to the work of the school to improve the learning experiences of children. The focus on developing children's emotional and physical wellbeing is helping to ensure all children are ready to learn and achieve.
- Staff have created a supportive and caring ethos where children feel happy, safe and respected. Children are enthusiastic about all aspects of school life and eager to take on roles of responsibility.

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

- Information from assessing children's progress should be better used to inform planning and adapt learning experiences. Teachers should continue to build their confidence in gathering, analysing and interpreting data about progress through Curriculum for Excellence levels. This information should then be used more effectively to differentiate tasks and activities to support children's progress. This work is needed to improve attainment and achievement for all children.
- The curriculum needs improved. A framework outlining the learning across curriculum areas is needed. Clear learning pathways should provide a progressive learning experience for children as they move through the stages in school. This needs to support the planning of learning to enable children to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes for learning life and work.

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 Hatton (Cruden) School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/aberdeenshire/5217229>

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.

Carol McDonald
 HM Inspector