

4 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Clerkhill 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.

- Senior leaders and staff work well together and with partners to deliver programmes to raise attainment and address any barriers children face. There is a strong sense of community that is expressed in the school's approach: "We belong. We believe. We achieve."
- Children are very positive when describing their school. They are polite, respectful, and well behaved. In class and in social situations they mix well with each other. Children enjoy the recreational space offered by the extensive school grounds, which also provides them with a range of opportunities for outdoor learning.
- Strong relationships between staff and children contribute to a positive learning environment. This supports children to engage well in their learning, particularly when linked to real-life situations. Approaches to play-based learning are successfully developing children's imagination, problem solving and independence across early and first levels.

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

- Continue to take forward the planned initiatives to promote children's skills in literacy and numeracy, and raise attainment.
- Continue to refine approaches to learning and teaching. This includes improving the pace and challenge in learning experiences across the school. Children will be more confident and assume greater responsibility for leading their own learning, as they develop a clearer understanding of themselves as learners.
- Streamline approaches, across the primary and nursery, to planning and recording children's learning. In doing so, review and improve children's individual profiles to enable children to reflect and talk about their learning.

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 Clerkhill Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</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?

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.

Charles Rooney  
HM Inspector