

27 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Woodside 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.

- Staff keep the learning and wellbeing needs of children and their families at the heart of their work. This is resulting in very positive, caring and nurturing relationships between staff and children in the school and the nursery.
- In the school, the headteacher, senior leaders and staff focus effectively on improving learning experiences for children who require additional support or have barriers to learning. They plan support quickly and effectively to ensure children receive the right support at the right time.
- In the primary school classes, senior leaders and staff use Pupil Equity Funding well and work with partners successfully to close attainment gaps in children's learning. They use their detailed knowledge of children to plan a range of supports which are improving outcomes for children.
- In the nursery, practitioners plan careful support for children with barriers to learning. This is supporting children's emotional needs and helping them to settle well into nursery.

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

- In the school, staff should continue to raise attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Staff should continue to implement effective interventions to ensure children get the best chance to learn and achieve success at school.
- In the school, staff should continue to develop consistent approaches to high-quality learning and teaching to provide all children with the right level of challenge. Teachers should continue to develop their understanding of national standards of attainment and share effective practice with each other.
- In the nursery, senior leaders and practitioners should continue to provide opportunities for children to enjoy a wider range of experiences. This will help to support and extend children's learning appropriate to their stage of development.
- In the nursery, practitioners should continue to improve their knowledge about the quality of their questioning when interacting with children. In doing so, this should support children to deepen their learning and make the best progress possible.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Woodside School and Early Learning Centre.

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	adequate
1.1 Nurturing care and support	adequate
1.3 Play and learning	adequate
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and three areas for improvement.

Areas for improvement made by Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

To support children's health, well-being and safety, the provider and manager should ensure staff are appropriately deployed and have the time needed in order to meet children's care and learning needs.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: My needs are met by the right number of people (HSCS 3.15) and People have time to support and care for me and to speak with me. (HSC 3.16).

To promote children's understanding and enjoyment of healthy eating and drinking, the manager and staff should improve mealtime experiences. This should include but not be

limited to ensuring the environment is calm and relaxed with comfortable seating and table arrangements.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I can enjoy unhurried snack and mealtimes in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible. (HSCS 1.35).

To support children's learning and development, the manager and staff should ensure children experience high quality play and learning relevant to their age and stage of development. This should include but not be limited to ensuring:

- staff are knowledgeable and trained in supporting children's learning
- the learning environment sparks children's curiosity
- group times are used effectively to support all children's needs.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'As a child, I have fun as I develop my skills in understanding, thinking, investigation, and problem solving, including through imaginative play and storytelling' (HSCS 1.30).

This letter and 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. Aberdeen City Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Helen Mulholland
HM Inspector

Lorraine Hendry
Care Inspector