

2 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Strichen 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.

- The effective headteacher who is supported well by staff. Together, they have a clear vision for improvement and are ambitious for all children. As a team, staff are providing positive leadership to the school and nursery.
- Children who are welcoming, friendly, polite and proud of their school and nursery. They are keen to share their learning and celebrate their successes and achievements.
- The welcoming, nurturing, caring and inclusive ethos which is underpinned effectively by children's rights. Working collaboratively, staff and children establish positive relationships and a strong sense of community in the school and nursery. Children feel happy, achieve and are supportive of each other.
- The positive opportunities for children to develop a wide range of skills through a variety of clubs, councils and groups across the school. This is supporting successfully children's understanding of leadership and developing their skills for learning life and work.

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

- The headteacher and staff need to develop further approaches to school improvement planning across the school and nursery. They should streamline approaches to gathering evidence to evaluate progress towards school improvement priorities. This will help provide staff with more effective information to evaluate the quality of the school's work.
- Staff in the school should continue to develop consistently high-quality approaches to planning for learning, teaching and assessment across the curriculum. This will further support children to build successfully on previous knowledge, concepts and skills.
- In the nursery, the senior early years practitioner and nursery team, supported by the headteacher should review the flow and structure of the nursery day. They should ensure times of transition maximise children's time for learning. This should help promote greater continuity and engagement in children's learning and play.

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 Strichen Primary and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school (4th edition) Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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
<b>Key question 1:</b> How good is our care, play and learning?	<b>good</b>
<b>1.1 Nurturing care and support</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>1.3 Play and learning</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Key question 2:</b> How good is our setting?	<b>good</b>
<b>2.2 Children experience high quality facilities</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Key question 3:</b> How good is our leadership?	<b>good</b>
<b>3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Key question 4:</b> How good is our staff team?	<b>good</b>
<b>4.3 Staff deployment</b>	<b>good</b>

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

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

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

As a result of the inspection, no areas for improvement were made.

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Strichen School | Inspection Report | 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.

Fraser Gillan  
HM Inspector

Susan Emery  
Care Inspector