

2 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Southesk 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.

- The headteacher leads staff effectively in creating a supportive culture and ethos. Children across the school and nursery feel valued and respected.
- Teachers and practitioners reflect on their practice and embrace professional learning opportunities. This is resulting in children benefitting from established routines and improved environments for learning.
- All staff work well together to support children's wellbeing and take an effective, shared approach to nurturing children. This is resulting in children being more prepared and ready to learn.
- Targeted approaches to family learning are engaging parents effectively in the life and work of the school. The school's links with a diverse range of partners support children to achieve well.

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

- Build on current approaches to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school and nursery to more effectively demonstrate improved outcomes for children.
- Continue to improve approaches to assessment to ensure all children make suitable progress and to raise attainment for all.
- Review the curriculum to ensure it is relevant to the children of Southesk, developing their skills 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? \(4th edition\)](#) 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 Southesk Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: 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/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4395>

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. Angus Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Susan Smith
HM Inspector