

4 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Gerardine 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.

- Children and staff are proud of their school and community. They have developed very positive learning environments based on the school values of being respectful, responsible, resilient and demonstrating kindness. Children are happy and are welcoming to visitors.
- Led very ably by the headteacher and senior leaders, staff have created a highly positive, nurturing and supportive ethos. Staff know children very well, both as individuals and as learners.
- Staff's collaborative and responsive approaches to tracking and monitoring individual children's progress is leading to improved outcomes for children.
- Staff work very effectively with a wide range of partner agencies. Children benefit from these partnerships through a wide range of universal and targeted support. This is improving outcomes for children.

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

- Staff should continue to develop their understanding of higher-order thinking skills. This should support an increased level of challenge leading children to make greater progress in their learning.
- Teachers should continue to work collaboratively on the development of whole school approaches to raising attainment in writing.
- Senior leaders should continue with their plans track and monitor children's skills and achievements. This will help them to identify and target gaps in children's learning and experiences.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 St Gerardine School

| Quality indicators | 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 | |

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[St Gerardine Primary 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. Moray Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Susan McDade
HM Inspector