

9 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2023, inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cairney 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 are proud of their school, keen to learn and engage well with the wide range of planned learning activities.
- The staff team have successfully developed a warm, inclusive learning environment where all children and staff demonstrate respect for each other. They work well together to develop children's understanding of their rights. Children are kind, caring and look after each other well.
- All staff have a strong focus on children's wellbeing. Together, they help children to reflect on, and develop, their own wellbeing regularly. This is helping staff to support children to be happy and confident in school and ready to learn.
- Teachers provide a broad curriculum which is relevant to the unique context of the school and children enjoy. They involve children regularly in planning their learning. Children experience rich opportunities to develop skills for leadership, learning, life and work.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to evaluating the work of the school. Senior leaders should continue to involve staff and children in this work. They should further develop their use of national guidance to help them to evaluate the work of the school.
- Continue to develop whole school approaches to monitoring children's progress across the curriculum. Senior leaders and teachers should develop monitoring further to help them clearly identify how well children are progressing through Curriculum for Excellence levels.
- Improve approaches to planning learning for children who require additional support. In doing so, they should include children, parents and professional partners fully in regularly reviewing children's progress and contributing to planning next steps for learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Cairney School

| Quality indicators | 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:
[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: [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.

Katharine Crombie
HM Inspector