

5 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lairhillock 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.

- Led effectively by the headteacher, the staff team within the school have developed effective ways to check the progress children are making in their learning.
- Children's achievements are effectively recognised and celebrated throughout the school and nursery class. Children are valued members of their school community.
- The quality of the nursery environment both indoors and out. Children are motivated and engage well in the range of stimulating play experiences.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to planning, tracking and observing learning in the nursery class, to ensure all children make the best possible progress.
- Continue to develop approaches to learning and teaching to ensure all learning across the school is well-paced and provides all children with the appropriate level of support and challenge.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Lairhillock Primary School and Nursery Class

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

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

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

Marion Carlton  
HM Inspector