

27 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kellands School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

Kellands School nursery class was inspected by Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore we have agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Senior leaders provide strong, effective leadership and clear direction with a constant focus on the wellbeing of all. Working with school staff, they have successfully created the climate and culture where improving outcomes for children lies at the heart of all they do.
- Positive relationships and nurturing approaches are important strengths of the school. The shared values and school vision 'where everybody is somebody' underpin the highly inclusive and caring ethos. As a result, children and staff have a very strong sense of belonging to the 'Kellands Family'.
- All staff work successfully together as a team to improve their practice, demonstrating their commendable approach to professional learning. They are dedicated and committed professionals who willingly undertake many leadership roles across the school. This is leading to improved experiences and outcomes for children.
- Staff work highly effectively with their partners and include them in evaluating many aspects of school life. As a result, outcomes for children are being positively impacted, particularly in relation to their emotional wellbeing and skills development.

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

- The senior leadership team and staff should continue with identified school improvement priorities to accelerate progress in raising children's attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- Senior leaders and staff should improve consistency across the school in effective learning, teaching and assessment. In particular, teachers should identify how they will assess children's progress and achievement, using national benchmarks.

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 Kellands School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=3127>

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.

Judith Reid
 HM Inspector