

31 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Drumoak 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.

- Across the school, staff and children demonstrate very positive relationships and a strong inclusive ethos across the school. This is resulting in children who are very motivated and engaged in their learning.
- There is a nurturing learning climate where children are valued and respected. Children demonstrate high levels of kindness and empathy towards each other.
- The headteacher, in consultation with all stakeholders, has refreshed the school's vision, values and aims to promote a culture of learning and achievement.
- The approach of the headteacher and staff to raising attainment and achievement across the school.

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

- Across the school, staff should continue to work together to ensure consistency in the provision of high quality learning and teaching. This includes the need to increase pace and challenge.
- Continue to develop further approaches to planning to ensure activities are better matched to the needs of individual children.
- Practitioners in the nursery should continue to improve their skills in observing and recording significant learning. They need to strengthen approaches for planning, tracking and monitoring children's learning to demonstrate children are making the best possible progress.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Drumoak Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	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=2396>

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.

James P McCrory
HM Inspector