

12 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Fettercairn 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.

- Staff and children across the school and nursery enjoy positive and mutually respectful relationships. Children across the school and nursery are friendly, polite and respectful. They show care and consideration for others.
- Senior leaders and teachers have improved approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment. This is supporting staff to helpfully plan learning together.
- Children in the nursery benefit from a well-resourced and stimulating learning environment. It supports children's learning, and develops their curiosity and confidence.

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

- Teachers should ensure they maintain consistently high expectations of what children can achieve in their learning. Staff should ensure all children experience increasing challenge in their learning across the school.
- Senior leaders should support teachers to develop their use of assessment to measure children's progress and identify their next steps in learning.
- Teachers should develop further the use of digital technology and creative contexts for learning, such as outdoor learning and play-based learning.
- Staff should continue to raise children's attainment with a particular focus on writing and listening and talking.

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 Fettercairn Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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	good
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: [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.

Graham Parry
HM Inspector