

29 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In August 2016, HM Inspectors published a letter on Port Erroll Primary School and Nursery Class. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and Aberdeenshire Council. We subsequently returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve its work, and published another letter in December 2017. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection and at other aspects of the school's work, as proposed by the headteacher. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found. The Care Inspectorate inspected the nursery class at the same time and that report will be available at www.careinspectorate.com.

Increase the pace of developing the curriculum to ensure appropriate progression and depth in learning.

The headteacher has consulted with children, parents and staff to review the school's vision, values and aims and, develop a rationale for the curriculum. These now need to be developed further and used to evaluate the curriculum. This will help teachers make well-judged changes to the curriculum and meet the needs of all children more effectively. Children in the nursery and school are becoming more involved in talking about their learning. Teachers need to develop clearer and more consistent ways in which they are measuring and recording the progress children are making in their learning. This will help inform discussions between teachers, children, parents and partners when identifying appropriate next steps in learning.

Better meet the needs of individual learners and work in collaboration with children, parents and partners to identify next steps in learning.

Teachers work together with children, parents and partners to identify next steps in learning for children with identified support needs. Teachers and early years practitioners now need to ensure that all children are having their needs and aspirations met through learning that is well-paced and appropriately challenging.

Develop robust systems of self-evaluation that lead to well-paced change, consistently high-quality learners' experiences and improved outcomes for learners.

The school is not yet in a position where it can clearly evidence improvements being made in children's attainment. There needs to be a clear and agreed approach to monitoring and tracking children's progress in learning across the school and nursery class. Staff should work with stakeholders to ensure that self-evaluation is more rigorous and evidence-based in order to impact fully on improving the quality of children's learning. The voice of children and parents needs to be strengthened and be more effectively engaged in self-evaluation. Overall, the school needs to be in a position where it can demonstrate that all children

consistently experience high-quality teaching and are making the best possible progress in their learning.

What happens next?

The school has made insufficient progress since the original inspection. We will liaise with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Aberdeenshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents informing you of the progress the school has made.

David Drysdale
HM Inspector