

3 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Lochside 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.

- A respectful, nurturing ethos underpinned by the school's recently reviewed values. Supportive learning environments and positive relationships across the primary and nursery stages are helping children to be happy and confident learners.
- Senior leaders and staff who work very well together to remove barriers children face in their learning. This is leading to children engaging well in their learning and participating in the wider life of the whole school community.
- The range and quality of outdoor learning experiences for children in the nursery. This supports children to develop their skills in risk-taking along with their curiosity and creativity.

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

- Provide children with more frequent opportunities to apply their skills in new and unfamiliar situations to enhance their learning experiences.
- Continue to raise the attainment of all children across the curriculum.
- In the nursery, refine approaches to individualised planning for children. This will support children to make even better progress in their learning.

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 Lochside 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	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	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no areas for improvements, formally known as recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and two areas for improvement.

Area for improvement

1. To ensure that children's personal information is stored safely and confidentially, the provider should ensure practice fully considers potential risks. Staff should have a robust understanding of how to minimise any risks to ensure children are safe and protected from harm.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My environment is secure and safe' (HSCS 5.19).

2. To ensure children experience high quality care, play and learning, the manager should ensure that quality assurance procedures are effective and robust in identifying where gaps may be and addressed any issues.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

This letter and 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. Angus Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Teri McIntosh
HM Inspector

Karen Hay
Care Inspector