

23 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Towie 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.

- The positive, respectful ethos in the nursery where children are making good progress in their learning and development.
- Across the school and nursery, children are polite, friendly and respectful. They come to school each day eager to learn and to do their best.
- The school's focus on developing children's understanding of their feelings and those of their peers. This is leading to children learning in a calm and purposeful learning environment.

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

- Develop further children's, parent's and all staff's roles in leading improvements across the school. Staff need to more rigorously gather, review and analyse information to better identify school improvement priorities.
- Develop consistently high quality approaches to learning and teaching across the school. Lessons should be differentiated more effectively to meet the needs of all children and to provide better pace and challenge. Planned learning needs to be more focussed on improving children's attainment.
- Develop further the school's processes for how teachers track and monitor children's progress.
- The school's curriculum should be reviewed so that it better reflects the local context of the school and be more aspirational for what children can achieve.

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

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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/inspection-reports/aberdeenshire/5230128>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. 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 12 months 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/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Graeme Gordon
HM Inspector