

14 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sandhaven 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 headteacher is providing strong and effective leadership for the school and nursery. She has established a clear vision for improvement and is gaining support and commitment from all stakeholders.
- Staff have engaged enthusiastically with change to improve the school. They demonstrate commitment to professional development and to securing improved outcomes for all learners.
- All staff have worked together well to establish an inclusive environment which is providing a positive context for learning. Children are proud of their friendly and welcoming school and work together well across the school and nursery.

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

- Improve attainment in literacy and numeracy. In doing so, improve learning and teaching to ensure all children experience sufficient pace and challenge in their learning.
- Develop approaches to assessment and the tracking of children's progress to ensure that all children progress well in their learning. This should more regularly involve children in evaluating their own progress.
- Continue to improve the curriculum to ensure children benefit from learning that links well with the local area and unique setting of the school. Staff should also make more effective use of the time available each day.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Sandhaven Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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/5219523>

### 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.

David Drysdale  
HM Inspector