

21 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Southwood 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 commitment of all staff to working together to improve the emotional wellbeing of all members of the school community. Staff have a thorough understanding of the context of the school and nursery and know the community and families well.
- The strong leadership of the headteacher and senior leadership team in setting a clear vision and direction for the school. This is supporting staff, children, parents and partners to take on leadership roles and work together for improvement.
- Children are thriving in a positive environment which is supporting learning. They are happy and proud of their nursery and school and describe a sense of belonging.
- The strong and effective partnership working which is having a positive impact on the lives of children and families.

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

- Continue to develop ways to use information about children's progress in learning to plan appropriate next steps and activities. This will help to meet children's individual learning needs to ensure that all children make the best possible progress in their learning.
- Further develop ways to engage children and parents in understanding children's learning and setting appropriate learning targets. Continuing to refine approaches to assessment will help to raise attainment for all children.
- Engage all members of the school community in reviewing the curriculum. This will help to make sure that all children have regular and appropriate opportunities to develop skills across a range of different contexts.

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 Southwood Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</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>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</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>	

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

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	very good
Quality of staffing	very good

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and three recommendations. From these two recommendations have been met. Outstanding issues relating to recording next steps in children's learning are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and two recommendations.

#### Recommendations

1. The provider should ensure that children's 'Personal Learning Journals' (PLJ) accurately and regularly record children's next steps for learning and development, with evaluations on actions taken. It should be clear how individual next steps are taken forward into planning. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'My future care and support needs are anticipated as part of my assessment' (1.14).
2. The provider should ensure all personal care plan information is reviewed whenever the provider is requested to do so by the service user or if there is any significant change in a child's health, welfare or safety needs and at least once in every six month period. This includes ensuring completion of PLJ information to demonstrate children's progress and next steps over their time in the service, electronic data check information and medical care plan information. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4397>

### 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. Fife 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

Anne McBroom  
Care Inspector