

27 August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Portlethen 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.

- Portlethen School has a welcoming ethos, and a nurturing culture with positive relationships between children and staff. The headteacher's leadership ensures children, staff, parents and the wider community are involved in the life of the school. Senior leaders and staff know the children and their families, and work together with the local community very well. Staff work well as a team and are supportive of each other.
- Articulate children who are enthusiastic about their learning, and who are very proud of their school. They are developing the school's values of teamwork, trust, respect, achievement, inclusion and nurture very successfully. Children make good use of digital technology to help them with their learning. They are confident, and enjoy sharing their digital technology work with others.
- Staff in the nursery are committed to improving their understanding and practice. This is enhancing children's experiences, and increasing their motivation and curiosity for play and learning.

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

- Continue to develop further consistent approaches to learning, teaching and assessment across the school. There should be a clear focus on what makes the most difference to improving children's progress, attainment and achievement, across all curricular areas.
- At all stages, maximise the opportunities the local area provides to plan high quality experiences for all children, through outdoor learning.
- In the nursery, continue to develop observations and assessment, and also as planned, improve early mathematics learning experiences for children.

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 Portlethen School

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	satisfactory
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/5251125>

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.

Eleanor MacGregor
 Managing Inspector