

14 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Arduthie 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 work of the school and nursery class.

- Children who are considerate, respectful, articulate and eager to learn.
- The shared vision, values and aims, which underpin all areas of school life, in the nursery setting and across the primary stages.
- Children's very good progress in writing. This has been well supported by the commitment of staff to improving learning and teaching approaches.
- The children's knowledge of mathematical strategies and their ability to select and justify their choices in a wide range of contexts.

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

- The senior leadership team, with school staff and nursery practitioners, need to improve the pace of change. They should begin with improving the curriculum, in order to improve further children's learning.
- All staff should continue to work together to develop approaches to assessment and sharing standards and expectations. Children need to experience more challenge in their learning.
- Working together with the whole school community, staff should develop a health and wellbeing framework for Arduthie Primary School and Nursery Class, which is structured, progressive and relevant.

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 Arduthie Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
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	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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	

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

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

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/5251524>

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.

Lorraine Fisher
HM Inspector

Fiona Murray
Care Inspector