

12 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kinellar 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.

- Senior leaders together with staff, embed the school's values very well through all aspects of the life and work of the school and nursery class. This is creating a calm, nurturing environment for children to develop as confident, curious learners.
- Children across the school are polite and articulate. They talk knowledgeably and enthusiastically about their learning. They attain very well and are benefitting from the school's work to help them to recognise the key skills they are developing through all aspects of their learning.
- All staff and children demonstrate respectful, nurturing, and responsive relationships in the nursery class and across the primary school. This supports children to feel safe, secure and motivated in their learning environments.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to provide all children with high quality learning experiences across the nursery and primary stages.
- Senior leaders and staff in the nursery class should use information on children's progress more effectively to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- Across the nursery class and primary school, continue to improve approaches to assessing, tracking, and monitoring children's learning. This will enable practitioners and teachers to know children better as learners and to identify clear next steps to support children to reach their full potential.

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

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>very 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>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and review](#) | [Education Scotland](#)

### 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.

JohnPaul Cassidy  
HM Inspector