

11 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Culter 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.

- Confident, articulate children across the school and nursery who are polite, enthusiastic and eager to learn.
- The strong focus on children's health and wellbeing across the school and nursery resulting in the positive, respectful and supportive culture underpinned by the rights of the child. Children in the primary school are developing a very good understanding of how to improve their own wellbeing and the importance of recognising and understanding their emotions.
- The valuable opportunities provided within the primary school for children to develop their skills through wider achievements as a result of strong staff teamwork and effective partnership working.

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

- Continue to provide clear, strategic guidance and direction to build and deepen nursery practitioners' knowledge, skills and understanding of current thinking in early learning and childcare. Children require increased and consistent opportunities to lead their learning through play across both playrooms.
- Develop a shared understanding of good practice in learning and teaching across the school and nursery to ensure it is of consistently high quality, providing appropriate pace and challenge for all children.
- Continue to develop the use of assessment to inform planning, tracking and monitoring and raise attainment further.

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 Culter School and Nursery Class

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

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

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=2263>

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. Aberdeen City Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Susan Smith
HM Inspector

Maureen Mathieson
Care Inspector