

4 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Kinloss 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 clear direction to whole school improvement provided by the recently appointed headteacher. She has harnessed the support of the school community to introduce improvements which are bespoke to the unique context of the school. Across the nursery and primary classes, the staff team introduced successful approaches to wellbeing and mental health for the whole school community. These are encouraging a more open and positive culture and ethos.
- The motivated staff team who are increasingly seeking opportunities to work with colleagues from across the authority and more widely. This is helping to improve learning experiences and outcomes for children.
- The articulate and keen children across the nursery and primary classes, who engage well and respond positively to changes in approaches to learning. These changes are helping to improve their engagement in learning and increasing their level of success.

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

- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy and the achievement of all children across the nursery and primary classes.
- Continue as planned to improve further approaches to tracking and monitoring children's progress and achievements to secure the best possible outcomes. In doing so, develop further teachers' understanding of national expectations.

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 Kinloss Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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	

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
Quality of staffing	adequate
Quality of management and leadership	adequate

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 one recommendation has been met. Outstanding issues relating to staff training and development and self-evaluation are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and two recommendations.

Recommendations

- The senior management team should ensure that the development needs of the staff are clearly identified through formal discussion, training is planned, shared and evaluated, with a view to improving outcomes for children.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'I have confidence in the people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14) and 'I am confident that people are encouraged to be innovative in the way they support and care for me' (HSCS 4.25).

- The provider and senior management team should establish a continuous, manageable and effective system of self-evaluation, that seeks the views of all those involved, leading to sustained improvement.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'I am supported to give regular feedback on how I experience my care and support and the organisation uses learning from this to improve' (HSCS 4.8) and 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

This letter and 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=3232>.

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

James McCrory
HM Inspector

Sandra Robinson
Care Inspector