

5 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Airyhall 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 headteacher demonstrates strong, effective leadership and is well supported by her depute headteachers. They have a nurturing and aspirational vision for all children.
- Together, the senior leadership team and staff work very well to create positive, respectful and trusting relationships with all children and parents.
- The staff in the nursery and school are enthusiastic to lead change. They feel trusted and respected by senior leaders to lead change to improve learning experiences and outcomes for children. They are proactive in engaging with professional learning and research. This is resulting in improved outcomes for all children.
- The staff in the school and nursery work effectively with a wide range of partners. These partners support the delivery of the curriculum and the wellbeing of children and families very well. This is helping all children to have their needs met effectively and to engage in learning.
- Across the school and nursery, children have a strong understanding of their own wellbeing. They know how to access and use a range of strategies to support them and others when they feel deep emotions. This is helping children to feel calm and engage well in play and learning.
- Teachers have developed a clear approach to assessing and recording children's progress, which has resulted in strong attainment in literacy and numeracy.

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

- As planned, teachers and senior leaders should further strengthen approaches to planning learning and teaching beyond literacy and numeracy. In doing so, children should have greater opportunities to lead their own learning.
- As planned, senior leaders and practitioners in the nursery should use data more effectively to ensure that they have a clearer focus on children's progress.

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 Airyhall Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	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	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	very good
1.3 Play and learning	good
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	good
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	very good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	very good
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	very good
4.3 Staff deployment	very good

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no areas for improvement were made.

Previous requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and two areas for improvement. From these, two areas for improvement have been met.

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Airyhall School | Inspection Report | 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. 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.

Denise Penman
HM Inspector

Nicola Creighton
Care Inspector