

19 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Whitehills 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 friendly, welcoming and polite children in the school and nursery who are motivated and ready to learn.
- The headteacher and staff who know children and families very well. They create a positive culture with caring relationships, which is helping children to become confident and successful learners.
- The headteacher and teachers' effectively review the progress of all children at attainment meetings. Teachers adjust planning and support as a result, which is ensuring children make good progress in learning, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- The well-developed nursery learning spaces indoors and outdoors that support children to be independent, curious and imaginative. Practitioners' use of the local community enables children to learn through real-life contexts.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to learning and teaching. This will help ensure all children experience consistently high quality learning activities, with appropriate challenge and opportunities for children to lead learning.
- Review approaches to planning learning to ensure all curriculum programmes are progressive. This will help to build on children's prior learning and allow children to experience a rich and varied curriculum.
- As planned, the headteacher and staff should review approaches to assessment across the curriculum, particularly in relation to literacy and numeracy. This will ensure that assessment links well to planning and will support children to make accelerated progress in learning.

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 Whitehills Primary School and Nursery Class

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

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.

Here are the Care Inspectorate’s evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting

| Detailed evaluations | Evaluation |
|---|-------------|
| Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning? | good |
| 1.1 Nurturing care and support | good |
| 1.3 Play and learning | good |
| Key question 3: How good is our leadership? | good |
| 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well | good |

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

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

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

[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.

Nicola Drew
HM Inspector

Lorraine Hendry
Care Inspector