

16 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sunnybank School and Early Learning and Childcare setting. 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 caring and nurturing relationships between staff and children. This supportive culture enables children to settle quickly in the school, Language Support Provision and Early Learning and Childcare setting.
- Polite children who are friendly, respectful and keen to learn.
- In the Language Support Provision, staff provide effective strategies to support children to overcome any difficulties they face in understanding or using language. Children are developing their communication skills well and are keen to share their learning and achievements.

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

- Improve children's progress and attainment across the curriculum in both the school and Early Learning and Childcare setting.
- Improve the consistency, quality and approaches to learning, teaching and assessment across the school and Early Learning and Childcare setting. This should include ensuring that all children build on their prior learning and experience learning which is at the right level of difficulty.
- Senior leaders and staff should develop further their use of data to inform effective planning, assessment and tracking of individual children's attainment over time. This should include a focus on children facing barriers to their 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 Sunnybank Primary and Early Learning and Childcare Setting

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

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Aberdeen City Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Aberdeen City Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Louise Phillips
HM Inspector