

28 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Aboyne 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.

- Confident, able, and articulate children across the school and nursery. The children come to school with a wide range of life experiences and interests.
- All children are welcome in school. There is an inclusive ethos across the school and nursery. All children can access learning in classrooms and be with their peers in the playground.
- The senior practitioner in the nursery class demonstrates effective leadership in improving experiences for children and in her support for practitioners.

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

- Establish effective approaches to evaluate the quality of the school's work.
- Improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment to ensure a consistently high quality for all children across the school. This should include reviewing approaches to planning for each curriculum area to ensure children experience progression in their learning.
- Improve children's learning experiences, progress, and attainment across all areas of the curriculum, particularly in literacy and English language and numeracy and mathematics.
- Improve approaches to promoting and supporting positive relationships and behaviour across the school.
- Improve approaches to supporting children who need extra help with their learning. This should include a review of the assessment and identification of individual need.

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 Aboyne Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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 to make necessary improvements. The acting headteacher has only been in post since the start of this school year. He needs time to work with the school team on their improvement agenda. We will liaise with Aberdeenshire 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 Aberdeenshire 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.

Susan Duff
HM Inspector