

19 June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

In March 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Portessie Primary School. 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:

- Children who are articulate and proud of their school. They are willing, and able, to take on responsibilities and improvements.
- The focus on encouraging children to read for pleasure and the range of books that children are able to access.
- Partnership working with the onsite playgroup and the positive impact this is having on children when they transition into the school.
- The teamwork and commitment of the headteacher and staff and their knowledge of children's strengths.

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

- There is a need to improve approaches to self-evaluation and improvement and provide further opportunities for leadership at all levels.
- Improve learning and teaching to raise attainment and help children develop a better understanding of their skills.
- The school community should work together to develop a shared plan to further improve the school ethos and ensure everyone feels valued and respected.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Portessie Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How good is our school? (4th edition) , Appendix 3: The six-point scale .	

A more detailed document called summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/moray/5208025>.

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

Monica McGeever
HM Inspector