

9 October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

In June 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Drumblade 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.

- Polite, well-mannered children who are eager to learn.
- The positive relationship between teachers and children, built on mutual respect.
- The caring, nurturing and inclusive ethos within the nursery that is having a positive impact on children's wellbeing.
- The improvements to the nursery indoor and outdoor learning environments, to support and enhance children's play.

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

- Establish strategic leadership and management procedures across all areas of the school and nursery, as matter of urgency.
- In order to ensure progression in learning and raised attainment, ensure effective transition arrangements are in place for all learners from nursery to P1, stage to stage and P7 to S1.
- Review the school curriculum in order to ensure appropriate breadth, pace, challenge and engagement for all learners.
- Improve school approaches to ensuring children's wellbeing, equality and inclusion. In doing so, ensure the needs of children with additional support needs are understood and addressed. Put in place effective systems to prepare plans and store information confidentially.
- Review Safeguarding procedures as matter of urgency.
- Improve approaches to planning learning teaching and assessment and develop effective monitoring and tracking of children's progress and attainment.

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 Drumblade Primary School and Nursery Class

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

Quality indicators nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale .	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	adequate

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there is one requirement and one recommendation.

Requirement:

To ensure children receive high quality early learning and childcare, the headteacher must have a strategic leadership and management role in the setting by 15 October 2018. This ensures care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed' (HSCS 4.23). It also complies with Regulation 7 (2) (c) (Fitness of Managers) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011.

Recommendation:

To ensure children receive high quality early learning and childcare, the headteacher must implement a robust and effective quality assurance process. This ensures that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19).

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at: <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/aberdeenshire/5225523> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

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 Aberdeenshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within six months 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.

Ann Floyd
HM Inspector