

19 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Portgordon Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

Portgordon Primary School Nursery Class was inspected by Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore, we have agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The friendly, warm and welcoming ethos established across the school. Children are respectful towards each other and adults and demonstrate an eagerness to learn.
- The positive relationships across the whole school community. Senior leaders and staff know children and their families well.

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

- Staff should raise attainment in literacy and numeracy for all children, ensuring children are supported and challenged to make the best possible progress.
- Staff should continue to work with other schools to develop a shared understanding of national standards.
- Senior leaders and staff should improve approaches to learning and teaching across the school. In doing so, they should ensure the pace of learning is brisker.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Portgordon Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	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	

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 Moray Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Moray 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.

Judith Reid
HM Inspector