

4 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Kittybrewster 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.

- Highly enthusiastic staff who are supporting each other well, and show a willingness to take forward improvements. They are working well together to create a caring and nurturing school and nursery.
- Children are happy at school and at all stages are ready to accept more responsibility for their learning, and to take on leadership opportunities.

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

- Senior leaders should provide clear, strategic leadership and direction to staff to guide improvements across the school and nursery.
- Senior leaders should organise for staff to work with staff in other schools to ensure they understand national standards of attainment, and to develop consistency in the quality of teaching and learning across all stages.
- Continue to develop approaches to tracking and monitoring the work of the school and children's progress in learning, in order to raise children's attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- Across all stages, staff need to develop consistent approaches to assessment to inform children's next steps in learning. This will support children to know what they need to do to improve further.
- Involve all children in planning and leading their learning, and in decision-making about aspects of school life that affect them. Provide more regular opportunities to give children choice and responsibility to develop greater independence in 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 Kittybrewster School and Nursery Class

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	weak
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	

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	adequate
Quality of management and leadership	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and two recommendations. From these one recommendation has been met. Outstanding issues relating to Care Inspectorate are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and three recommendations.

Recommendations

Quality of staffing

- To improve the quality of children's experiences staff should be supported to reflect on their training and development opportunities and implement the learning from these into practice.
This ensures that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes'. (HSCS 3.14)

Quality of management and leadership

- To ensure children receive high quality care and early learning experiences management and staff should ensure an effective quality assurance system is developed and implemented in the service.
This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state: 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes'. (HSCS 4.19)
- In order to ensure all children are supported to achieve their potential, effective systems should be implemented to monitor children's progress, learning and development.
This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state: '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 (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/aberdeen-city/5240425> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#)

What happens next?

We are not at present confident from our short visit that the school has effective arrangements for ensuring continuing improvement in the quality of education for all learners. We will return within 12 months of publication of the inspection report to explore this further. After the return inspection we will report our findings to you.

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