

19 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Echt 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.

- All staff have positive, caring and respectful relationships with children in the school and nursery. This results in children having a secure sense of belonging and feeling valued as part of the school community.
- The headteacher and the nursery manager provide effective leadership which supports, guides and motivates the staff team very well. This is increasing the school's capacity for continuous change and improving outcomes for children.
- Senior leaders and all staff know children and families very well and have a strong understanding of their needs. They are proactive in ensuring children receive tailored support which is helping them to attain and achieve well.
- In the nursery, practitioners offer a range of experiences both indoors and outdoors which support children to be creative, imaginative and problem solve during play. This supports children to develop a range of skills and make good progress in their learning.
- Children are confident, articulate and have a strong understanding of their rights and those of others. They have many meaningful opportunities to share their views and develop a range of skills within their pupil voice groups.

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

- Senior leaders should support staff to have a deeper level of involvement in monitoring and leading change. This will give them increased ownership in identifying and leading nursery and school improvement priorities.
- In the nursery, practitioners should continue to develop approaches to planning and checking children's learning. This will help practitioners to gather robust information to demonstrate clearly the progress children are making during their time in nursery.
- In the school, senior leaders should continue to support staff to develop a consistent shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching. This should help to ensure that children receive more active learning experiences and further challenge.

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 Echt School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Securing children's progress	good
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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and review](#) | [Education Scotland](#)

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

Helen Mulholland
HM Inspector