



Standards and Quality Report Parents Summary Session 2017-18

How well are we doing?

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Insch School, we work very hard to continually improve our school and the opportunities that we offer our children. Part of this work involves asking our whole school community what they think is important in terms of improving our school. We seek views and opinions in a variety of ways throughout the school session. This can be through Learning Conversations with children, surveys and questionnaires with staff, parents and children and during professional dialogue with all staff. These are just some examples of how we gather information about our school. I'd now like to take the opportunity to share with you how far we've come over the past school session.

Mrs Conner, Head Teacher June 2018

During session 2017-18 we worked on the follow school improvements:

Action Plan 1: Promoting a Climate for Leadership for Learning

What have we been doing?

- ✓ Staff have written a whole school spelling and grammar progression from P1 to P7.
- ✓ Those pupils in P5, 6 and 7 who are Digital Leaders have been trained regularly in digital technology.
- ✓ House Captains worked with Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to look at the quality and standard of pupil work in jotters.
- ✓ 2 of our teachers led a series of Probationer Training sessions. 1 worked with the Cluster to deliver Science training to the Cluster. 1PSA and several Early Year staff are studying the BA Childhood experiences.

What impact has our work in this area had?

- Consistency of spelling and grammar taught in a planned programme for teachers to follow. This meets the needs of individual pupils and ensures learners make progress in their learning.
- Our Digital Leaders work with pupils and staff across the school in all aspects of digital technology e.g. helping to teach Coding, recommending the purchase of Microbits to support the teaching of Coding, supporting pupils in using PowerPoint and saving and retrieving files.

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- House Captains and SLT told pupils what they thought of the standard of presentation in jotters: what was good and what could be improved. The standard has increased and jotters are neater, with, for the most part, greater care and attention being taken by all.
- The Probationer sessions were very well received by all who took part. They have led to consistency of learning and teaching across the school and wider Cluster. They will run again this year and probationers from Huntly and Inverurie Cluster have been invited to attend. Early Years staff have settled in very well to their promoted Early Years Senior Practitioner and Lead roles leading change and improvement in the nursery effectively.

Action Plan 2: Leading Change

What have we been doing?

- ✓ Year 2 of the new way we Report to Parents. Meet the Teacher event in September was well received.
- ✓ Learning Stories were issued 3 times this year, traditional parents evening held in March. We invited parents into school at other times in the year to share learning e.g. Reading Strategies Open Afternoon and School Panto.
- ✓ Teaching staff worked together to create an expectation of what learning and teaching looks like at Inch School.
- ✓ The upgrade of the playground has continued and the Parent Council have submitted a further Awards for All Grant. We are looking to lay more artificial grass to reduce the mud surface. Decision to be announced after the summer.
- ✓ In nursery, a number of changes have been planned and successfully implemented e.g. pupils are free to access all areas of the nursery setting including outdoors, a Key Worker system operates, planning is responsive to meet pupil needs, pupils and the elderly residents of Drumdarroch work together to learn new skills.

What impact has our work in this area had?

- 96% of parents told us they agreed or strongly agreed that they received helpful information about how their child was doing e.g. informal feedback, reports.
- The adjusted Pupil Progress Report was issued again in May and the codes are now easier to follow.
- Staff have a shared understanding of what learning and teaching looks like at Inch School. This is shared with newly recruited teachers and has led to greater consistency of teaching standards across the school.
- More planned purposeful play experiences continue to improve behaviour in the playground.
- Our youngest learners in nursery are actively engaged in purposeful play at all times.

Action Plan 3: Developing Family Learning in the Early Years – Flourishing Inch by Inch.

What have we been doing?

- ✓ Nursery staff worked with Authority to establish a family centred nurture approach. They visited Fife nurseries and worked with professionals to develop an Aberdeenshire Nurture model. An improvement Plan was put in place.

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- ✓ Our Nursery induction process was reviewed. It is now a more informal session that allows parents, pupils and nursery staff to get to know one another in a more relaxed way.
- ✓ Closer working partnerships have been established between community partner agencies.
- ✓ Intergenerational partnership between Drumdarroch Nursing Home and Insch Nursery is working very positively.
- ✓ Bookbug reading sessions held for younger siblings and families.

What impact has our work in this area had?

- Better signposting to community events, links, agencies to support families.
- Improved communication between partner agencies means that nursery staff have a better understanding of younger learners and their families.
- A more family centred approach has made the Nursery more accessible to all.
- Relationships have developed between the young nursery pupils and elder residents leading to the development of fine motor skills and communication. Health and wellbeing has been promoted for all.
- Younger siblings feel comfortable with nursery setting and staff.

Action Plan 4: Developing the Curriculum

What have we been doing?

- ✓ Staff have lead curriculum changes, i.e. spelling, grammar, reading strategies. They have delivered technology training, led a Science week, led food technology, Forest Schools and outdoor learning.
- ✓ Staff created a new reading strategies progression across the school. The progression of reading books was reviewed and increased use of a variety of reading text.
- ✓ Challenge groups offer extension of reading and writing skills. Parent Readers support those who require extra daily reading practice.
- ✓ Feedback in jotters has been standardised with visual feedback for P1 and P2 pupils and written feedback (2 stars and a wish for P3 and upwards). Learning Intentions are shared across the school.
- ✓ The majority of classes are using digital technology to increase motivation of pupils through the use of Sumdog, Coding, Microbits, Apple TV, Explain Everything, Sway
- ✓ Sensory diets and the use of the safe space and newly refurbished Zone.
- ✓ Challenge groups set up to offer extension of reading and writing skills within third level.
- ✓ Dragon's Den – 2nd level pupils pitch for school funds using persuasive language skills .

What impact has our work in this area had?

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- Our staff take on leadership roles confidently. All initiatives deliver impact for our learners. This means our capacity for improvement is good and we are well placed to continue improvements.
- Almost all our learners know what they are learning and what they need to do to improve.
- The learning engagement in our school has improved for almost all pupils. In our classrooms children are eager and active participants in their learning.
- Attainment is increasing as a result of the increased levels of daily reading sessions.
- Pupils are involved in making decisions that affect their school. The winning Dragon's Den pitch successfully won £250 to spend on playground equipment and the installation of a toy store cupboard.
- There are less behaviour incidents at playtimes as are result of increased levels of purposeful play.

Action Plan 5: Our Attainment and Achievement

What have we been doing?

- ✓ Attainment is tracked three times a year in Nov. March and June. Attainment Conversations are held twice a year to ensure all pupils are progressing at the expected level. An action plan is identified to support and challenge pupils.
- ✓ Curriculum for Excellence levels are tracked in June at P1, P4 and P7. These form the schools attainment figures. See table below.
- ✓ Teachers have moderated pupil work and have increased their shared understanding of levels. Our attainment data is now more valid and reliable.

What impact has our work in this area had?

We have raised the attainment of all our learners including those facing barriers to learning

Curriculum for Excellence Levels Achieved

Percentage of children achieving expected levels at P1, P4, P7. Figures are calculated each session annually in June based on CfE Levels achieved.

	2015-16 Valid/reliable data? *	2016-17	2017-18
Primary 1			
Reading	82%	98%	90%
Writing	78%	98%	86%
Maths	71%	100%	87%
Talking and Listening		100%	98%
Primary 4			
Reading	58%	84%	85%
Writing	38%	66%	85%
Maths	62%	70%	77%
Talking and Listening		70%	94%

*Moderation was not fully embedded and data is less valid and reliable at this time.

This has been addressed following moderation work and continues each year.

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Primary 7			
Reading	67%	74%	84%
Writing	37%	71%	89%
Maths	50%	79%	81%
Talking and Listening		84%	87%

Our Achievements Session 2017-18



Hugely successful Community Art Exhibition showcasing the high quality of pupil art work. The event was run by our Parent Council.

Reading Strategies Open Afternoon. Our parents told us they learned new ways to help support their child in reading.



Run Garioch Winners of CP&Co for 2nd year running. 165 pupils took part in Run Garioch. Inch School had the most pupils taking part.



After School Basketball Coaching by S3 Meldrum Academy pupils following Young Sports Leadership training. Our pupils learned skills in a new sport and gained in confidence.



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Forest Schools, The Meadows
 More classes are using the local environment to learn forest skills. This year P4/5 and P6 learned to identify water mini beasts: water shrimps, pond skimmers and tadpoles and much more.....

Hugely successful Whole school Panto Cinderella Ruckerfella. The school and BLC worked collaboratively to plan, organise and deliver our first school Community Panto. Our aim was to hold a production that brought the school and wider community together. It certainly did that and we are so proud of everyone for making it a success.



Learning in our Community

P2 and P2/3 visited Leith Hall to learn about Mini beast. They caught spiders, flies and moths. They learned to identify flowers and plants and planted their own wild flower seeds.

Nursery Outdoor Learning Space

Staff and parents have worked collaboratively to improve the outdoor space. Children are now fully engaged with outdoor learning throughout nursery sessions.



GreenPower Kit Car Challenge

P7 pupils worked together for the annual event held at Alford Transport Museum. They learned how to build their kit car and were taught mechanical and engineering skills. Our parent helpers were instrumental in supporting this initiative.

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Primary Schools Rotary Area Quiz – 4th Place

The Inch Steam participated in the final round of the Rotary General Knowledge Quiz. The team came an admirable 4th place. The team won the Huntly Cluster round to go through to the finals.



P6 Residential Ski Trip Abernethy
A week of learning how to ski and living away from home, with the wonderful Abernethy staff. New experiences for most.



Sports Day – Inclusion for All

A wonderful day of trying our best at Sports Day. All pupils are supported to participate in the event to the best of their ability using visual timetable approach.



Taste of Grampian. For the 2nd year running Inch School won an award at the event. This year we won best artistic representation for a healthy packed lunch.



P7 Loch Inch Residential Watersport Trip
A week of learning new skills and working together as a team.: windsurfing, sailing, kayaking and more



We hope this summary document gives you a flavour of our school's achievements during the session 2017-18. The detailed Standards and Quality Report can be viewed on our school website. We are happy to receive feedback.

<http://insch.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/> Email: insch.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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