

13 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Inch 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.

- Across school and nursery, children are happy, confident and talk about their learning with enthusiasm.
- The headteacher and senior leaders create an ethos of empowerment where staff at all levels are encouraged to lead aspects of whole school improvement. This is having a positive impact on outcomes for children.
- Senior leaders, teachers and support staff use their rich knowledge of individual children and families to effectively support children's wellbeing needs.
- School and nursery staff make creative and effective use of community partnerships, outdoor spaces and the local area. This is enhancing children's learning experiences and opportunities.

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

- Senior leaders should develop further their approaches to measure how effective planned changes are on improving outcomes for children. This should include identifying and using clear measures of success.
- Staff should continue, as planned, to develop clear curricular pathways that allow children to build on their learning as they move through the nursery and school.
- Senior leaders should continue to support all staff to develop a shared understanding of the school's progress in raising attainment and on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.
- Nursery staff should develop further their observations of children during play and carry out carefully planned interventions to support children to make better progress in their learning.

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 Insch School

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	good
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	

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?

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.

Lisa Marie McDonnell
Managing Inspector