

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 1 JUNE 2023**

**EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF BIRKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Each year Education Scotland inspects and reports on the quality of education in a sample of pre-school centres, primary schools, secondary schools and other education services. To support improvement, the inspection team evaluates the quality of children and young people's learning and achievement. There is a key focus on the development of children and young people's skills and understanding in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, which enables access to the highest possible learning within a broad general education and beyond.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) for the primary stages, and for the nursery class, [How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?](#)

The inspection of Birkhill Primary School and Nursery Class took the form of a full model. The full model inspection reports upon the following quality indicators (QIs):

- QI 1.3 – Leadership of change
- QI 1.3 – Learning, teaching and assessment
- QI 3.1 – Ensuring wellbeing, quality and inclusion
- QI 3.2 – Raising attainment and achievement

Birkhill Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected during the week of 09 January 2023. The inspection report was published on 07 March 2023. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The strong leadership of the headteacher who receives strong support from her extended leadership team. Senior leaders work effectively with parents to create a positive learning environment where all children achieve well across the nursery and primary. The headteacher has been successful in creating high expectations.
- The hardworking whole staff team who work well together to create a warm, nurturing environment where children are encouraged to work hard and achieve.
- The clear approach to assessing and recording children's progress, which has resulted in strong attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- The strong approach to learning at the early level across nursery and Primary 1, including learning through play in Primary 1. The very strong all year round transition programme, 'Mix up Monday' sessions, are helping children to move from nursery to school with confidence.

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

- Share the examples of very good practice in teaching and learning across the school to continue to improve the quality further.
- Continue to improve approaches to meeting children's learning needs within age-appropriate peer groups, particularly in numeracy.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Birkhill Primary School are as follows:

### **PRIMARY STAGES**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Leadership of change                      | very good |
| Learning, teaching and assessment         | very good |
| Ensuring wellbeing, quality and inclusion | very good |
| Raising attainment and achievement        | very good |

### **NURSERY**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Leadership of change                      | very good |
| Learning, teaching and assessment         | very good |
| Ensuring wellbeing, quality and inclusion | very good |
| Raising attainment and achievement        | very good |

Education Scotland expressed confidence that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings are available on the Education Scotland website.

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=1654>