

FAMILY, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE – 9 JANUARY 2024

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF BORROWFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Borrowfield Primary School and Nursery Class to undertake a short model inspection.

During the visit, the inspection team spoke 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:

- The effective teamwork of all staff across the school and nursery. Led well by the headteacher, they are developing consistent approaches to learning and teaching which result in rich and varied experiences for children.
- The impact of 'The Borrowfield Way' in the school and nursery in promoting nurturing, respectful relationships between staff, children and their peers, families and partners. This is supporting children well to become resilient learners who embrace challenge.
- The well-judged and creative use of indoor and outdoor spaces across the school and nursery. This provides an inclusive learning environment where all children are happy to learn and making good progress.
- The school's highly-effective partnership working with a range of organisations and agencies to develop flexible approaches to learning. This is having a positive impact on children's attendance, wellbeing, motivation and engagement in learning.

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

- Across the school and nursery, continue to develop high quality learning, teaching and assessment. This should include increased opportunities for children to apply their learning to real-life contexts.
- Continue to develop teachers' confidence and accuracy in their shared understanding of national standards

Education Scotland's evaluations for Borrowfield Primary School and Nursery Class are as follows:

PRIMARY STAGES

Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good

NURSERY

Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good

In the final letter published on 12 September 2023 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/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=1698>

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF LOCHSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lochside Primary School and Nursery Class to undertake a short model inspection.

During the visit, the inspection team spoke to parents/carers and children; and worked closely with the Head Teacher and staff. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- A respectful, nurturing ethos underpinned by the school's recently reviewed values. Supportive learning environments and positive relationships across the primary and nursery stages are helping children to be happy and confident learners.
- Senior leaders and staff who work very well together to remove barriers children face in their learning. This is leading to children engaging well in their learning and participating in the wider life of the whole school community.
- The range and quality of outdoor learning experiences for children in the nursery. This supports children to develop their skills in risk-taking along with their curiosity and creativity.

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

- Provide children with more frequent opportunities to apply their skills in new and unfamiliar situations to enhance their learning experiences.
- Continue to raise the attainment of all children across the curriculum.
- In the nursery, refine approaches to individualised planning for children. This will support children to make even better progress in their learning.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Lochside Primary School and Nursery Class are as follows:

PRIMARY STAGES

Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good

NURSERY

Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good

In the final letter published on 3 October 2023 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/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=3516>

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF STRATHMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In September 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Strathmore Primary School and Nursery Class to undertake a full model inspection.

During the visit, the inspection team spoke to parents/carers and children; and worked closely with the Head Teacher and staff. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The school's approaches to developing children's emotional wellbeing. This supports the very inclusive culture across the school and nursery. Children are friendly and enjoy learning in a school where they know they are cared for and valued.
- The senior leaders', staffs' and practitioners' effective teamwork. Senior leaders have maintained a continuous focus, despite recent changes in staffing, on improving the work of the school and nursery. Collectively, they embrace change and take forward improvement priorities effectively.
- Teachers' use of the school campus to support outdoor learning. This helps children develop their skills in interesting real-life contexts.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to planning children's learning in the nursery. In doing so, ensure children's next steps in learning are identified clearly to lead to improved progress.
- Develop further how teachers plan learning in the school, which supports children to take greater ownership of their learning. Ensure this planned learning focuses on raising children's attainment.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Strathmore Primary School and Nursery Class are as follows:

PRIMARY STAGES

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

NURSERY

Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Securing children's progress	good

In the final letter published on 14 November 2023 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/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=4870>

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF CARMYLLIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In September 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Carmyllie Primary School and Nursery Class to undertake a short model inspection.

During the visit, the inspection team spoke to parents/carers and children; and worked closely with the Head Teacher and staff. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Confident and articulate children who demonstrate their enthusiasm for learning. They work well together, support one another and demonstrate the school's values well. They feel happy, safe and included in decisions about school life.
- The nurturing ethos and positive relationships that exist across Carmyllie Primary School and Nursery Class. Children and their families feel a welcomed part of a strong community.
- All staff work very well together as a team. They engage enthusiastically in professional learning and reflect effectively on their practice. As a result, children secure consistently high levels of progress, attainment and achievement across the nursery and school.
- The very effective leadership of the headteacher in monitoring how well children are attaining. She works closely with staff to support all children to make very good progress in their learning and provide any additional support children may require.

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

- As planned, staff should explore how best to track the skills children develop across their learning. This will support children to articulate fully the skills for learning, life and work they are developing through their learning and achievements.
- Practitioners in the nursery should continue to develop their use of open-ended questioning to maximise deeper learning in focussed activities. As planned, practitioners should increase children's access to digital technologies and work with other settings to continue to enhance their practice and offer high quality learning experiences.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Carmyllie Primary School and Nursery Class are as follows:

PRIMARY STAGES

Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good

NURSERY

Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	very good

In the final letter published on 14 November 2023 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/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=1948>

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF LETHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

In September 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Letham Primary School and Nursery Class to undertake a short model inspection.

During the visit, the inspection team spoke to parents/carers and children; and worked closely with the Head Teacher and staff. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Happy, well-mannered, articulate children who are proud of their school and nursery. They demonstrate kindness and are supportive to their peers.
- The respectful relationships between children and adults. This is promoted by the headteacher and supported by the depute headteachers and senior early years practitioner. Children know that all staff care for them and work to help them achieve their best.
- The good progress children make in their literacy and numeracy learning across the establishment.
- In the pre-school class, practitioners use observations effectively to show the progress children make in their learning.

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

- Provide children with more frequent opportunities to apply their skills in new and unfamiliar situations to enhance their learning experiences.
- Continue to raise the attainment of all children across the curriculum.
- In the nursery, refine approaches to individualised planning for children. This will support children to make even better progress in their learning.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Letham Primary School and Nursery Class are as follows:

PRIMARY STAGES

Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	good

NURSERY

Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good

In the final letter published on 28 November 2023 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/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=3404>