

13 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Rowantree Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the acting headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's success and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Following a period of change, recent improvements to culture and ethos across the school, led by the temporary senior leadership team.
- Children who have shown enthusiasm and eagerness to more positive learning and achieving success.
- Nursery partnership with parents and carers which are leading to positive opportunities to find out more about learning together.
- Commitment of staff who are keen to collaborate and support the school's improvement journey from nursery to P7.

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

- Provide strong and sustained leadership to take forward significant improvements across the school to help children make the best possible progress.
- Ensure consistently high quality learning experiences, including involving children in planning and reflecting on their own learning in order to improve attainment.
- Improve the school's approaches to assessment, tracking and monitoring to ensure there are clear processes in place which are used by staff to track, review and enhance children's progress in learning.
- Considerably improve arrangements for identifying and meeting children's learning needs.
- Develop clear and flexible progression pathways to support the planning and delivery of all curriculum areas from nursery through to P7, building on prior learning.

**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? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*<sup>1</sup>. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland’s evaluations for Rowantree Primary School and Nursery Class

### Primary stages

<b>Leadership of Change</b>	<b>unsatisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>unsatisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>unsatisfactory</b>

### Nursery class

<b>Leadership of Change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children’s progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>

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<sup>1</sup> *How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

## Here are the Care Inspectorate gradings for the nursery class

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	<b>adequate</b>
<b>Quality of environment</b>	<b>adequate</b>
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	<b>adequate</b>
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	<b>adequate</b>

### **Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class:**

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the school had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there is one requirement and there are seven recommendations.

#### **Requirement**

1. The provider must ensure that robust quality assurance and self-evaluation procedures are in place to identify, monitor and maintain standards across the nursery, contributing to the overall improvement agenda.

This is in order to comply with:

The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (Scottish Statutory Instrument 2011/210) Regulation 4 (1) (a) – Welfare of Users

Timescale – within two months of this report

#### **Recommendations**

1. The children's learning stories should be reviewed to improve consistency across the setting, and consider different ways to share children's learning.  
This is in accordance with National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to 16, Standard 4 Engaging with Children; Standard 5 Quality of Experience
2. The nursery should consider ways in which they can offer home visits as part of the children's transition into the nursery.  
This is in accordance with National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to 16, Standard 1 Being welcomed and valued; Standard 6 Support and Development
3. The manager and staff should ensure the variety of resources offers all children appropriate challenge and depth of learning, encouraging respect and responsibility to support their overall development.

This is in accordance with National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to 16, Standard 5 Quality of experience; Standard 7 A caring environment; Standard 11 Access to resources

4. The outdoor areas should be developed further to provide a richer learning experience for all children.

This is in accordance with National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to 16, Standard 5 Quality of experience; Standard 11 Access to resources

5. The staff team would benefit from further developing delegated leadership across the nursery, including a leadership role for the 2-3 room.

This is in accordance with National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to 16, Standard 12 Confidence in Staff; Standard 13 Improving the service

6. The staff should receive further training and support around extending children's learning, targeted behavioural support and the impact of the environment on this.

The National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 Standard 4 Engaging with children; Standard 6 Support and development; Standard 12 Confidence in staff

7. The nursery manager would benefit from strong leadership and a wider support network within the school.

This is in accordance with National Care Standards Early Education and Childcare up to 16, Standard 13 Improving the service; Standard 14: Well-managed service

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate website at

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/dundee-city/5320224> and

<http://www.scswis.com/>

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Dundee City Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within six months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Dundee City Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any Requirements and Recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Sally Stewart  
HM Inspector

Hilary Brookes  
Care Inspector

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