

26 June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**Boddam School
Aberdeenshire Council**

In April 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and Aberdeenshire Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

Improve the consistency of children's learning experiences and outcomes in the classroom. To do this staff need to increase the pace of learning and provide more challenging and relevant activities better matched to children's needs and abilities. In addition staff should put in place effective assessment arrangements to support learning. These need to focus on clear smart targets and include regular evaluation of latest and best progress.

Staff have very positive relationships with the children. The consistency of children's learning experiences and their successes in the classroom are now much improved. Children are now more confident when talking about their learning and the strategies they use and have used in previous lessons. Teachers refer to the relevance of learning relating this to real life experiences. The pace of learning and the well-considered use of set tasks at the right level for individuals ensures that the needs of all children are being met consistently. Digital learning is used now in almost all classes to support children with their learning. This includes the use of tablet computers, behaviour management software and good use of interactive whiteboards. Staff should continue to develop their strategies to improve assessment within learning and to embed these in their teaching.

The school should continue with its plans to develop staff's shared understanding of progression in order to assure accurate monitoring and tracking of progress. Staff need to have more opportunities within and beyond the cluster to moderate achievement at all levels.

Monitoring and tracking of children's progress, including those children with additional needs, is now much more robust. Learning is monitored well by class teachers and then discussed with the headteacher at planned tracking meetings

throughout the session. This ensures that appropriate targets are being set for every child and that their progress is regularly evaluated to inform the next steps in their learning. Children should now be involved in setting their own personal targets in consultation with teachers and their parents, enabling them to take more responsibility for their own learning.

The school should continue with its work to develop well-considered wellbeing programmes that are relevant to the needs of children. This should include approaches to track and monitor progress in this area to continue to improve the wellbeing outcomes for all learners.

Relationships across the school community are very positive and founded on a strong climate of respect. Children are considerate of others around them, very friendly and very welcoming. Children's behaviour is very good. The school's online behaviour management system supports children to demonstrate well the school's positive vision and values. Children are treated as individuals. They understand they have someone to talk to whenever there are situations affecting their everyday lives. Staff are continuing to improve learning in health and wellbeing through the use of the new guidelines within the Aberdeenshire local authority framework. Children can now speak with more confidence and assuredness about their progress in health and wellbeing. Staff should continue to develop strategies to allow children to self-assess their own wellbeing. Children's entitlement to two hours of quality physical education is now being met. The headteacher agrees that that outdoor learning experiences need to be developed further.

Improve attainment in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics.

Staff led by the leadership of the highly effective headteacher are now providing much more rigour and better evidence to track children's progress over time. Overall children's attainment in English language and literacy and in mathematics and numeracy is now improving. Last session results were satisfactory overall. In listening and talking, children listen well to each other and respond to each other in a very respectful manner. Staff agree their next steps are to put in place a more formal assessment process for the assessment of listening and talking. In reading, a majority of children engage well with a range of texts across learning. Staff offer targeted learners extra reading support regularly. The headteacher agrees that there is further work to be done to maximise attainment in reading especially around P4. The standard of writing across the school is now improving and tracked and monitored now much more systematically. Children enjoy using their imagination to convey ideas, thoughts and feelings. More attention is given now to the presentation quality of written work. Staff are continuing to develop approaches to assessing children's writing skills. These approaches will provide learners with clear feedback so they understand more about the skills they are developing. Children enjoy and are achieving in numeracy and mathematics. They are developing their understanding of number processes and can discuss different ways in which they gather and present data. Teachers apply learning in numeracy to other curricular areas when appropriate. The pupil voice numeracy group have established a useful lunchtime club where around thirty learners attend to play maths games together. Staff are now providing much more rigour and better evidence to track children's numeracy progress over time.

What happens next?

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. 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 about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its centres.

Aileen Monaghan
HM Inspector

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