

29 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Slains Primary School. 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.

- The acting headteacher, teachers and support staff have established a caring and nurturing ethos at Slains Primary School. There are warm and supportive relationships across the school. All children are polite and respectful to their classmates and adults.
- The whole school approach to improving numeracy is beginning to have a positive impact on children's interest, confidence and progress in this curriculum area.
- Children enjoy being outdoors. The school's location and the extensive outdoor areas offer potential for rich learning opportunities across the curriculum.

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

- The acting headteacher and staff should develop further their approaches to prioritising and directing improvements to ensure all children reach their full potential.
- Improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment. This should include developing, as a staff, a shared understanding of how they plan learning that allow children to build on previous learning. In doing this, staff need to develop an understanding of national standards.
- There is a need to better meet the learning needs of all children.
- Improve children's progress and attainment across the curriculum, particularly in reading and writing.
- Ensure all children have opportunities for learning across all areas of the curriculum.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Slains Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: 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?

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 Aberdeenshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Aberdeenshire 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.

Susan Duff
HM Inspector