

**REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 27 June 2017****EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION,
BODDAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS****1 Recommendations**

The committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider and comment on the contents of this report.**
- ii) Endorse the Service's continuing efforts in support of its schools in the Education Scotland inspection process and in the raising of standards of attainment and achievement in all aspects of school life; and**
- iii) Agree to further reports of Education Scotland school inspections being presented.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 In April 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter outlining the findings of their visit to Boddam Primary School and Nursery.
- 2.2 During the visit, they talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the head teacher and staff. The team heard of the positive and necessary conditions created to drive improvements forward. They gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's success and achievements.
- 2.3 As a result of the inspection, the Inspectors highlighted the following key strengths in the work of Boddam Primary School and Nursery Class;
 - Friendly, well-mannered children who are proud of their school and eager to learn. They enjoy working and playing with their classmates.
 - The strong collegiate environment led by the headteacher and the positive relationships between staff and children to support an improving climate for learning.
 - The developing partnerships with parents who are keen to support change and contribute to school improvement.
- 2.4 The inspection model is based on the school's own self-evaluation, and how this is used to focus on improving outcomes for young people, in line with Curriculum for Excellence. Over the course of the inspection process the inspectors arrive at their own overall evaluations for the school in relation to core Quality Indicators. In Boddam Primary School and Nursery Class, the inspector's evaluation in April 2017 was as follows:

Boddam Primary School: Core Quality Indicators Evaluations

Leadership of Change	Satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	Weak
Raising attainment and achievement	Weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Satisfactory

Boddam Nursery: Quality Indicators Evaluations

Leadership of Change	Satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	Satisfactory
Securing children's progress	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

- 2.5 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head teacher and a representative from Aberdeenshire Council:
- 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.
 - 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.
 - The school should continue with its work to develop well-considered wellbeing programmes that are relevant to the needs of young people. This should include approaches to track and monitor progress in this area to continue to improve the wellbeing outcomes for all learners.
 - Improve attainment in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics.
- 2.6 The School will continue to address the areas for improvement from the inspection report.
- 2.7 The head teacher will provide parents/carers with an update on progress in the implementation of the plan as part of its annual standards and quality reporting arrangements.
- 2.8 Education Scotland will liaise with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. They will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 15 months of April 2017. They will discuss with Aberdeenshire Council the details of this inspection. When they return to inspect the school, they will write to parents/carers informing them of the progress the school has made.
- 2.9 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated into the report.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and comment on this report in accordance with the scheme of Governance Section B 1.2.

4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial or staffing implications arising directly from this report. It is intended that any costs will be met from existing budgets.
- 4.2 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommended actions will not have a differential impact upon people with protected characteristics.

Maria Walker
Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by Emma Anderson, Head Teacher, Boddam Primary School and Nursery.
Date: 2nd June 2017