

REPORT TO KINCARDINE AND MEARNS AREA COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2020

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION, ARDUTHIE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 Consider and provide comments on the joint Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and Care Inspectorate report on Arduthie School to Education and Children's Service. (**Appendix 1** - Inspection Reports).

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider and comment on the contents of the report,**
- 2.2 Endorse the Services continuing efforts in support of its school in the Education Scotland Inspection process and in the raising of standards of attainment and achievement in all aspects of school life, and**
- 2.3 Agree to further reports on Education Scotland school inspections being presented.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route.

- 3.1 In September 2020, HM Inspectors and Care Inspectorate gave notice of a full model inspection of Arduthie Primary School and Nursery to be completed the week commencing 30 September 2020.
- 3.2 This report shares Education Scotland's evaluation of Arduthie Primary School and Nursery from September 2020 as part of a national sample of primary education (Appendix 1 – Inspection Report)
- 3.3 This report is being presented to this committee only and has not previously been considered by any other committee.
- 3.4 Following inspection, the Head Teacher will work with her Senior Leadership Team and staff to plan implementation of recommendations in line with School Improvement Priorities.
- 3.5 Quality Improvement processes will continue to focus implementation of improvements. These are informed by How Good is Our school 4, How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare (extracts at **Appendix 2**), the National Improvement Priorities, Developing the Young Workforce and local and national GIRFEC policies.

4 Discussion

4.1 In August, prior to the inspection one of the Depute Head Teachers retired and one week after the completion of the inspection the Head Teacher also retired. Since the inspection a new Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher have been appointed. The new Senior Leadership Team retains a Depute Head Teacher, who has been in post for three years.

4.2 The inspectors looked at the core Quality Indicators in addition to a chosen Quality Indicator that the school had identified and self-evaluated. The school inspection evaluated key aspects of the work of the school at all stages including:

- The direction of the school and leadership of change at all levels
- Learning, teaching and assessment across the Curriculum
- Raising attainment and achievement
- Ensuring well-being, equity and inclusion of all learners
- Self-evaluation for self-improvement
- Partnerships in the school community and its impact on learners
- The curriculum of the school
- Safeguarding

4.3 As a result of the inspection, the Inspectors highlighted the following strengths at Arduthie Primary School:

- Children who are considerate, respectful, articulate and eager to learn.
- The shared vision, values and aims, which underpin all areas of school life, in the nursery setting and across the primary stages.
- Children's very progress in writing. This has been well supported by the commitment of staff to improving learning and teaching approaches.
- The children's knowledge of mathematical strategies and their ability to select and justify their choice in a wide range of contexts.

4.4 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 the Curriculum for Excellence. Over the course of the inspection process, the inspectors arrive at their own overall evaluations for the school in relation to four core Quality Indicators and a school's chosen Quality Indicator. In Arduthie Primary School, the inspector's evaluation in October 2020 was as follows:

Arduthie Primary School: Core Quality Indicators Evaluations

Leadership of change	Satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Very Good
Ensuring well-being, equity and inclusion	Satisfactory

Arduthie Nursery: Core Quality Indicators Evaluations

Leadership of change	Satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	Satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring well-being, equity and inclusion	Good

Arduthie Nursery: Care Inspectorate Standards

Quality of care and support	Good
Quality of environment	Adequate

- 4.5 The Inspectors also identified some areas where they felt the school and nursery should focus in order to improve the quality of education. These were:
- The Senior Leadership Team, with school staff and nursery practitioners, need to improve the pace of change. They should begin with improving the curriculum, in order to further improve children's learning.
 - All staff should continue to work together to develop approaches to assessment and sharing standards and expectations. Children need to experience more challenge in their learning.
 - Working together with the whole school community, staff should develop a Health and Wellbeing framework for Arduthie Primary School and Nursery classes, which is structured, progressive and relevant.
- 4.6 The school, in consultation with the Quality Improvement Officer, adjusted the School Improvement plan to address these areas for improvement.
- 4.7 The Head teacher will provide parents/carers and the Area Committee with an update on progress in the implementation of the School Improvement Plan as part of its annual standards and quality reporting arrangements.
- 4.8 The school is very well supported by parents and the wider community and the school continues to involve and seek the views of all stakeholders in their improvement agenda. The report has been shared with parents.
- 4.9 The Inspectors are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve so no further visits in connection with this school inspection will be made by HM Inspectors.
- 4.10 Due to the "Adequate" evaluation of the Quality of the Environment, the Care Inspectorate team will return within a year to re-evaluate the setting.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver Council Priority 3 - Providing the best life chances for all our children and young people by raising levels of attainment and achievement.
- 5.2 This report helps deliver all aspects of Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services Priorities:
- Improving learning, teaching and assessment
 - Partnership working to raise attainment

- Developing leadership at all levels
- Improvement through self-evaluation

This report helps deliver against Aberdeenshire Children’s Services Plan Priority – Early Years

5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities		X	
Fairer Scotland Duty		X	
Town Centre First		X	
Sustainability		X	
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing		X	

5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because the actions will not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

5.5 There are no staffing and financial implications arising directly from this report. It is intended that any costs will be met from existing budgets.

5.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

Developing Excellence and Equity: Risk - *Consistently apply best practice recommendations across all schools.*

- We will continue to improve expectations to facilitate better outcomes for pupils through appropriate pace and challenge for our pupils.
- We will continue to improve consistency in high quality teaching, learning and assessment through professional engagement and collegiate working.

6 Scheme of Governance

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B 1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of

Governance as it relates to a matter of performance in relation to attainment and achievement which impacts on the Kincardine and Mearns Area.

Laurence Findlay
Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by Christeen Seward, Head Teacher,
Arduthie Primary School
Report Date 3 February January 2020

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Inspection Report
Appendix 2 – Details of Quality indicators

APPENDIX 1



14 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Arduthie Primary School and Nursery Class. 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 work of the school and nursery class.

- Children who are considerate, respectful, articulate and eager to learn.
- The shared vision, values and aims, which underpin all areas of school life, in the nursery setting and across the primary stages.
- Children's very good progress in writing. This has been well supported by the commitment of staff to improving learning and teaching approaches.
- The children's knowledge of mathematical strategies and their ability to select and justify their choices in a wide range of contexts.

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

- The senior leadership team, with school staff and nursery practitioners, need to improve the pace of change. They should begin with improving the curriculum, in order to improve further children's learning.
- All staff should continue to work together to develop approaches to assessment and sharing standards and expectations. Children need to experience more challenge in their learning.
- Working together with the whole school community, staff should develop a health and wellbeing framework for Arduthie Primary School and Nursery Class, which is structured, progressive and relevant.



We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) 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 Arduthie Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Appendix 2

How good is Our School 4? (HGIOS4?) Quality Indicators

Quality Indicator 2.3: Learning, teaching and assessment

- Learning and engagement
- Quality of teaching
- Effective use of assessment
- Planning, tracking and monitoring

Quality Indicator 3.2: Raising attainment and achievement

- Attainment in literacy and numeracy
- Attainment over time
- Overall quality of learners' achievement
- Equity for all learners

HGIOELC? Quality Indicators

Quality Indicator 2.3: Learning, teaching and assessment

- Learning and engagement
- Quality of interactions
- Effective use of assessment
- Planning, tracking and monitoring

Quality Indicator 3.2: Securing Children's Progress

- Progress in communication, early language, mathematics, health and wellbeing
- Children's progress over time
- Overall quality of children's achievement
- Ensuring equity for all children