

18 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited New Pitsligo and St John's Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the 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:

- The leadership of the headteacher in securing improvement over time and in establishing good teamwork between enthusiastic staff, parents and the community.
- The care and wellbeing of children in the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) centre and the positive start made to improvement due to the leadership of the lead practitioner.
- The positive school ethos demonstrated by well-behaved, respectful children who are supportive of their peers. They enjoy learning and are proud of their school.
- The school's success in including all children and supporting children with barriers to learning. In recent years there has been a sustained focus on continuing to improve attainment in literacy and numeracy.

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

- Improve and streamline the school's approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment across the ELC centre and school.
- Refresh the curriculum ensuring appropriate focus on progression in learning through the Curriculum for Excellence levels.
- Ensure the needs of all children are met through an increased focus on pace and challenge in learning across all classes.

**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 New Pitsligo and St John’s Primary School:

### Primary stages

<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>

### Nursery class

<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</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>

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/reports/aberdeenshire/5220424>.

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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?](#)

## What happens next?

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/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Sadie Cushley  
HM Inspector

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**Education Scotland**

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Almondvale Business Park  
Almondvale Way  
Livingston EH54 6GA

**T** +44 (0)131 244 4330  
**E** [enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk)

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