

Kinloss Primary School

Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Visit
October 2019

Authority commentary

A variety of focus groups with children, staff and parents were conducted along with wider school community and partners. Inspectors also met with the Headteacher at the beginning of the inspection and during the inspection period, gathering information and reviewing data in support of inspection findings. Data gathered from pre-inspection questionnaires issued to pupils, parents, staff and partners in advance of inspection support inspection findings. School approaches to safeguarding and child protection were also reviewed as part of core inspection activity.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The clear direction to whole school improvement provided by the recently appointed Headteacher. She has harnessed the support of the school community to introduce improvements which are bespoke to the unique context of the school. Across the nursery and primary classes, the staff team introduced successful approaches to wellbeing and mental health for the whole school community. These are encouraging a more open and positive culture and ethos.
- The motivated staff team who are increasingly seeking opportunities to work with colleagues from across the authority and more widely. This is helping to improve learning experiences and outcomes for children.
- The articulate and keen children across the nursery and primary classes, who engage well and respond positively to changes in approaches to learning. These changes are helping to improve their engagement in learning and increasing their level of success.

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

- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy and the achievement of all children across the nursery and primary classes.
- Continue as planned to improve further approaches to tracking and monitoring children's progress and achievements to secure the best possible outcomes. In doing so, develop further teachers' understanding of national expectations.

The inspection team are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and three recommendations. From these, one recommendation has been met.

Outstanding issues relating to staff training and development and self-evaluation are carried forward in this inspection. In part, this was due to change in Nursery staff. As a result of this inspection, there are no further requirements or recommendations. A comprehensive action plan is now in place in order to address outstanding recommendations with further improvements notably underway.

Kinloss Primary School serves the communities of Kinloss and Findhorn and the army barracks at Kinloss, where the 39th Engineers Regiment is based and where the largest group of the school population is housed. The current school roll is 244, including 11 children in the nursery class, the majority of the school roll from a forces family background. The majority of children at Kinloss Primary School have attended two or more Primary Schools prior to attending Kinloss Primary School.

The Headteacher has been in post since January 2019 – ten months at time of inspection – and working with her Depute Head Teacher, staff, pupils, parents and wider school community has introduced notable changes in order to support wellbeing, learning and raise attainment. Having successfully and recently led another Moray school through positive Education Scotland inspection when in an Acting Headteacher role prior to current post, positive change has resulted in the Head Teacher's short time in tenure with full impact yet to be realised. Education Scotland endorse the way forward identified, with both areas for improvement above related to actions already identified and underway.

The unique context of Kinloss Primary School and Nursery alongside the Headteacher's clarity of direction with school improvement, staff commitment and children's keenness to participate and engage were recognised by the inspection team. School Improvement plans guided by self-evaluation evidence, focus on key areas for development.

In summary, this is a positive inspection report highlighting good practice to date and areas for development known and being addressed by the Senior Leadership Team, staff and in partnership with the wider school community.

Stewart McLauchlan
Quality Improvement Manager