

Dallas Primary School

Education Scotland Inspection Visit

September 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. The schools 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:

- Articulate children who take great pride in their school, their local community and have high aspirations for their future. They work effectively together, support one another and demonstrate the school's values well.
- The leadership of the school's curriculum provides rich and relevant learning experiences. Children are developing skills well as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- Children's enjoyment of learning in a nurturing and inclusive learning environment. The supportive staff team ensures children are cared for and central to learning. Partnership working, visiting specialists and community involvement provide stimulating experiences for children to learn and develop.

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

- Continue to develop consistency in the quality of learning and teaching using approaches that meet the learning needs of all children.
- Continue to raise attainment including using effective monitoring and tracking of children's progress through Curriculum for Excellence levels. Ensure improved reliability of teacher's professional judgements about what children have achieved.

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.

It is noted that inspectors highlighted the rationale and design of the curriculum as providing a well-structured backdrop across the four contexts of learning for children to apply their learning, as a feature of good practice.

It is further noted that relevant learning features across the curriculum with a good use of the local community. The school is further developing the reliability of staff professional judgement to show children's progress.

Following a period of notable staff changes in the lead up to inspection, all staff at Dallas Primary School work tirelessly in support of all learners for positive attainment and achievement outcomes. Areas for improvement identified by Education Scotland were already known by the school and Head Teacher, with clear School Improvement Plans already in place in order to further build on gradings achieved on inspection.

In summary, a positive inspection outcome has been achieved in line with school self-evaluation evidence and gradings identified by the school pre-inspection, with further ongoing changes and improvements made following inspection.

Stewart McLauchlan
Quality Improvement Manager