7 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Birkhill Primary School and Pre School 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 school's work.

- The strong leadership of the headteacher who receives strong support from her extended leadership team. Senior leaders work effectively with parents to create a positive learning environment where all children achieve well across the nursery and primary. The headteacher has been successful in creating high expectations.
- The hardworking whole staff team who work well together to create a warm, nurturing environment where children are encouraged to work hard and achieve.
- The clear approach to assessing and recording children's progress, which has resulted in strong attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- The strong approach to learning at the early level across nursery and Primary 1, including learning through play in Primary 1. The very strong all year round transition programme, 'Mix up Monday' sessions, are helping children to move from nursery to school with confidence.

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

- Share the examples of very good practice in teaching and learning across the school to continue to improve the quality further.
- Continue to improve approaches to meeting children's learning needs within age-appropriate peer groups, particularly in numeracy.

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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 Birkhill Primary School and Pre School Class

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

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare. The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	**very good**
1.1 Nurturing care and support	**very good**
1.3 Play and learning	**very good**
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	**very good**
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	**very good**
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	
4.3 Staff deployment	**very good**

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had one requirement which has been met.

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page//?id=1654

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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. Angus 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

Jane Lynch
Care Inspectorate

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