21 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Farr Primary School and Farr High School Nursery- Bettyhill. 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.

- Across the school and nursery, children are confident, able and articulate. They are polite, well-mannered and welcoming to visitors.
- Senior leaders and staff across the school and nursery work very well together to create positive, respectful and trusting relationships with children, parents and the community. They are caring and supportive of children and each other.
- Practitioners in the nursery are highly effective. They support children to make very good progress in their learning through skilful interactions.
- Senior leaders in the nursery provide well considered sensitive and responsive support to practitioners to ensure that they can be highly effective in their role. As a result, children experience high quality early learning and childcare in a continually improving environment.

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

- Senior leaders need to work with staff across the school to ensure all improvement priorities are focused on improving children's progress and attainment across all areas of the curriculum.
- Senior leaders and staff across the school need to improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment. They should ensure all children receive consistently high-quality learning experiences. Teachers need to use their assessment information more effectively to plan learning activities that match well children's needs and abilities.
- Senior leaders need to work with teachers to measure more effectively the progress children make over time. They need to monitor more closely the impact of planned approaches to raise attainment and close gaps in learning.

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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 Farr Primary School and Nursery Class - Bettyhill

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	**satisfactory**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**satisfactory**
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	**satisfactory**
Raising attainment and achievement	**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	**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?	**very good**
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	**very good**
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	**very good**
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	**very good**
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	**very good**
4.3 Staff deployment	**very good**

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

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

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

As a result of the inspection, no areas for improvement were made.

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A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
Farr Primary School, Bettyhill | Inspection Report | Education Scotland

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. The Highland Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Denise Penman
HM Inspector

Angela Bain
Care Inspector

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