

17 June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Crathes School. 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.

- Children are confident, creative and articulate. They engage well across the curriculum and in wider school life. Children demonstrate important skills and qualities as learners and as caring citizens.
- The headteacher and staff work very well together. They build nurturing, trusting relationships which support children's wellbeing and confidence. All staff regularly reflect on their practice and engage in professional learning. This positively impacts on teaching and learning.
- Teachers make highly skilled use of the environment and local context to enhance children's learning. Children show a deep understanding of wildlife, the natural world around them and sustainability. They enjoy learning together outdoors and connecting with nature.
- The headteacher fosters strong partnerships and involves all children in exciting, creative and collaborative projects. These extend children's thinking and promote joy in learning. This approach supports children well to achieve and experience success.

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

- Continue to develop high-quality teaching and learning approaches to provide the most effective support and challenge for all children.
- Continue to develop planning and assessment for children's skills across the curriculum. This should help children to discuss and apply their skills.
- Continue to develop a shared understanding of children's progress through Curriculum for Excellence levels. This should support staff to accelerate further the progress and attainment of children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Crathes School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition) , Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Crathes School | 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. Aberdeenshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Lisa Marie McDonnell
HM Inspector