

22 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2024, HM Inspectors published a letter on Oyne Primary School. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and Aberdeenshire Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

Improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment across the curriculum to ensure all children experience learning that builds on what they already know.

Overall, there has been strong progress made towards this area for improvement. The headteacher has continued to work with staff to improve approaches to learning and teaching across the school. Teachers have worked very well together to develop learning spaces that motivate and engage children more fully in their learning. Children are very proud of the bright displays of their work in the corridors and classrooms. They now access a wider range of appropriate resources to support their learning and to help them be independent learners. Teachers make more effective use of technology to enhance learning. This includes the use of interactive whiteboards and laptop and tablet computers. Staff are now building on this positive progress to explore how to make best use of the extensive school grounds and local area.

The headteacher has worked with staff to develop a shared understanding of standards and expectations for learning and teaching. All teachers now use an agreed lesson format to structure lessons. This is leading to an increased pace of learning and improving the quality of children's learning experiences across the curriculum. All teachers now have higher expectations of all children. They ensure children are listening well and are participating in the tasks and activities on offer. In most lessons, teachers provide children with clear explanations and instructions. They share the purpose of the lesson and help children to understand how to be successful in their learning. Children's written work is of a higher standard. Children are proud of the work in their jotters and can talk about improvements in their presentation and levels of success. Teachers provide written feedback to children highlighting clearly where children have been successful. Children are now ready to take a greater role in setting targets for their learning.

The headteacher has worked with staff to develop approaches to check children's progress. Teachers now used an agreed range of assessments at key points across the year. This approach is supporting teachers to gather increasingly robust and reliable information about children's progress and attainment. Teachers should continue to develop approaches to assessing children's progress across the curriculum.

Improve approaches to planning learning and teaching for literacy and numeracy.

Overall, there has been strong progress made towards this area for improvement. The principal teacher has worked with teachers to improve approaches to planning learning and teaching for literacy and numeracy. Teachers now use an agreed set of core resources to support teaching in literacy and numeracy. This is leading to a more consistent approach across the school and improved learning experiences for children. In particular, teachers' effective use of reading materials and whole school approaches to the teaching of writing, are impacting positively on learning and progress.

All staff have increased their expectations of what children across the school can achieve. Children experience increased pace in their learning which is supporting them to better engage in their learning and remain focused on tasks. Teachers now plan learning activities in literacy and numeracy that are of higher quality and more varied. Teachers' planning for literacy and numeracy now sets out clearly the intended learning for groups and individuals. This is supporting teachers to better meet children's learning needs. Most children now receive appropriate support and challenge in their learning. Staff should continue to ensure children have opportunities to demonstrate and apply their literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum. Teachers should also ensure children have planned opportunities across the year to revisit learning in numeracy and mathematics to deepen learning.

Raise attainment in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics.

Overall, there has been strong progress made towards this area for improvement. Improvements in learning, teaching and assessment, along with raised expectations are having a positive impact on children's progress, attainment and achievement. The headteacher meets teachers regularly to discuss the progress of individual children and year groups. This supports teachers well to identify children who may require additional support or challenge in their learning.

Overall, attainment in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics has improved. A majority of children are now on track to achieve national standards in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics. Across the school, most children are now making good progress in their learning. A few children exceed national standards in aspects of numeracy and mathematics. Children who require additional support with their learning are making satisfactory progress against their individual targets. The headteacher should continue to work with staff to ensure all children achieve the best possible outcomes across their learning.

What happens next?

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. 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 about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Marion Carlton
HM Inspector