

20 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Barthol Chapel 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:

- Confident and articulate children who are proud to talk about their school and its achievements. This, together with the caring approach taken by staff contributes to a very supportive ethos for learning.
- The very positive start made by the headteacher in managing the leadership of change. In his short time in post, he has successfully established strong relationships within the staff team. This has supported a shared, clear focus on identifying the areas of the schools work which are working well and those that need improved.
- The positive contribution of parents to supporting the wider life of the school. This includes the ways in which parents assist in running out-of-class activities.

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

- Staff should continue with plans to develop the curriculum. This should include the development of learning pathways in all curricular areas to strengthen the way in which the school can assess and track children's progress and improve attainment.
- The headteacher should continue to support staff to ensure a greater consistency in the quality of learning and teaching. The staff should build upon recent development work to ensure a shared understanding of what constitutes best practice, to ensure the needs of all children are met consistently well in lessons.
- The headteacher should continue to develop, and embed, procedures for evaluating the work of the school. Staff have made a good start to this but should now be more outward looking to ensure there is a clearer focus on national expectations.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Barthol Chapel School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition)</a> , <a href="#">Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a> .	

A more detailed document called summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/aberdeenshire/5224322>.

### 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.

Alan Urquhart  
HM Inspector