

Standards & Quality Report

2015 / 2016



**Towie School and Nursery
Glenkindie,
Alford**

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Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL 

The School in Context

Towie is a small, rural school, with a nursery class, set in Upper Donside. The school is located in the small village of Towie which consists of a kirk, school, village hall and a small cluster of houses. The slightly larger village of Glenkindie is approximately one mile distant on the other side of the River Don. The majority of the pupils travel by bus from homes along the Don Valley and from more remote glens of Glenbuchat and Glen Deskry.

At Towie School our **vision** is to be a school where:

- Children want to learn
- Staff want to teach and work.
- Parents want to send their children
- In a community that is proud of and connected to its school

Our **values** are: **W.I.S.E.R.** Integrity, wisdom, self-belief, respect and empathy.

At Towie School we engage all our young people in the highest quality learning activities in order to become: Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.

We aim for every child to be **safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included** by:

- Promoting an ethos of wellbeing, respect, equality and inclusion.
- Developing a culture of achievement and ambition.
- Working in partnership with parents, other agencies and the community to meet the needs of all children.
- Demonstrating a reflective and a collective commitment to improve the service we offer our learners, families and community.
- Providing high quality leadership for learners and staff.

The school roll is 52 in the school and 17 in the nursery running am sessions. There are currently 10 out-of-zone pupils.

Pupils are taught in four separate classes a P5-7, P3-4, P1-3 and Nursery. There are 3 full time Class Teachers and a Head Teacher who teaches in the nursery every morning. Towie School is part of the Alford CSN and benefits from its multi-agency working. Visiting Specialists teach Music, PE, and ICT within the CSN. Pupils transfer to Alford Academy at S1. The school has a very supportive and active Parent Council.

Key Developments	Progress during 2015/2016
Developing improved approaches to reporting progress to parents/carers	Created & shared with parents a reporting calendar. Trialed a new reporting format & included children in parent/child/teacher interviews
The Curriculum	Developed and adopted the school's curriculum rationale and design with parents/carers. Staff becoming familiar with Aberdeenshire's new progression frameworks- ongoing
Improve monitoring and tracking	Identified strengths from existing monitoring & tracking systems. Continue to use data generated by standardised assessment to effectively plan for learning & teaching for all pupils- ongoing
Self-Evaluation Using new HGIOS 4 Continuing whole school involvement in self-evaluation process ensuring positive impact on learning and teaching.	On-going-informs and evidences need for future improvements. Continue developing tracking and monitoring. Use of results from standardised tests in Literacy and Numeracy and Mathematics in tracking and targeting support for learning

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES FOR 2016 /2017

Overarching outcome-to raise attainment

- **1.4 Leadership & management of staff-building & sustaining a professional team. Increase opportunities for moderation within the cluster.**
- **2.2 Curriculum-learning pathways. Staff plan & assess using all Aberdeenshire progression frameworks & benchmarks.**
- **3.2 Raising attainment-Attainment over time. Evaluate the progress of learners over time & trends in performance using data collated from improved tracking & monitoring.**

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES FOR 2015 /2016

Overarching outcome-to raise attainment

1. How good is our leadership and approach to improvement?

QI 1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement. Evaluation-very good

QI 1.3 Leadership of change. Evaluation-very good

In arriving at these evaluations, we considered the following evidence.

- Evidence supporting the impact of previous improvement plans
- Grading from the Care Commission
- Preparing the annual Standards and Quality report and presenting to staff, parents and the Local Authority
- Following up on action points from Quality Assurance visits
- Following up on action points from HMIE/Care Commission inspections
- Auditing as part of the Improvement Plan
- Consultations with pupils and parents & carers
- Classroom visits both formal and informal

Our key strengths in this area are

- Staff commitment to improvement
- Parent and pupil engagement in consultations

We have identified the following as priorities for improvement in this area

- Familiarisation with and use of new documents HGIOS 4 and HGIOELCC

2. How good is the quality of the care and education we offer?

QI 2.2 ~ Curriculum

Evaluation

Good

QI 2.4 ~Personalised support

Very good

In arriving at these evaluations, we considered the following evidence.

- Parent and pupil engagement in developing the curriculum rationale
- Pupils' progress/attainment & feedback from pupils & parents
- Sampling pupils' work
- Overarching plan which details wide range of planned experiences over 3 years
- Minutes of meetings with parents and other agencies

Our key strengths in this area are

- Developed and adopted in consultation with parents and pupils the school's curriculum rationale and design
- Improved support for ASD pupils
- Curriculum for Excellence is firmly embedded in 3 key areas and our use of an interdisciplinary approach to learning.
- Close working with learning support staff, parents and partner agencies to identify, evaluate, support and review learner's needs

We have identified the following as priorities for

- Staff use of and familiarisation with the Aberdeenshire progression frameworks and Education Scotland benchmarks

3. How good are we at ensuring the best possible outcomes for all learners?

QI 3.1 Improving wellbeing, equality and inclusion

Evaluation -Very Good

In arriving at these evaluations, we considered the following evidence

- Adoption of wellbeing indicators as school aims
- Consultations with parents and pupils
- Improved support for ASD pupils & feedback from parents
- Interdisciplinary work on Rights Respecting Schools
- Classroom charters and rules

- School policies on behaviour, equality and diversity
- Adopting a Restorative Practice model following whole school staff training
- Engagement of all pupils with the pupil council
- Specific programme of support when friendship issues arose
- The extent learners are motivated and actively involved in their own learning and development
- Encouraging a welcoming atmosphere in school where achievements of pupils and staff are recognized and parents are seen as valuable partners in the learning process

Our key strengths in this area are

- The positive ethos within the school
- The support for children with ASN

We have identified the following as priorities for improvement in this area

- Completing formal Accreditation as a Rights Respecting School

3.2 Raising attainment and achievement

Evaluation

Satisfactory

In arriving at these evaluations, we considered the following evidence.

- Collating a variety of evidence of achievements
- Collating and analysing standardized test results
- Pupil profiles, nursery learning folders and pupils reflection in learning logs
- Monitoring teachers' forward planning

Our key strengths in this area are

- Use of the school blog for sharing achievements with parents
- Pupils progress and achievement of levels

We have identified the following as priorities for improvement in this area

- Improve monitoring and tracking to aid raising attainment
- Greater use and understanding of standardised test data to moderate and support teacher judgements
- Increase opportunities for staff moderation and professional dialogue with colleagues within the cluster

Events during session 2015-16

September

- Hamewith concert
- Active Literacy workshop for parents
- Nursery visit to local farm
- Whole school visit Art in the Buchat NEOS in Glenbuchat
- Bikeability course ran by staff and parents

October

- Numeracy workshop for parents
- Parent/Teacher/child settling-in interviews nursery to P7
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November

- P1-3 visit Road safety magic Show in Tarland
- Nursery to P7 visited the ALEC caravan (Aberdeenshire's Healthy Choices programme)
- Visit by Strathdon Fire Brigade for nursery pupils
- P1-3 visit Alford campus to meet an author
- Visit by horse and wagonette rides for nursery children
- P1-7 joined cluster schools for a Day of Dance at Lonach Hall
- St Andrew's Day celebratory lunch parent & pupil recitations in Scots

December

- Christmas Nativity held in Towie Kirk in Refreshments provided by the Parent Council.
- Parent Council organised a Christmas party for the whole school
- Nursery Christmas Sing Song for parents and families.

January

- Parent consultation evening on new reporting and curriculum rationale
- Celebrated Robert Burns' day with lunch, pupil recitations, an staff member invited to pipe in the haggis and parent did the address to the haggis

February

- Parent workshop on GLOW
- Whole school ski trip to The Lecht funded by the Parent Council
- P4-7 pupils visit the Royal Northern Spring Show

March

- "Inspired" Art Exhibition of pupils work inspired by visits from local artists
- Open Morning held in school 11/19 nursery parents attended, 9/12 in P1-3 class and 5/13 in P4-7 class
- Community links-Silver Circle invited for lunch, pupils showcased some of their learning
- Friendship Assembly-specific focus for P4-7 girls
- P6 & 7 took part in the Rotary Quiz
- P4-7 Dancing Competition Aberdeen

April

- P1-7 attended a Chess and Problem Solving Day and skipping workshop at Lumsden school –mini cluster event

May

- Residential course PGL Dalguise P6 & 7 pupils
- All pupils have had swimming lessons this year transport funded by the Parent Council
- P4-7 visit Woodland School
- Nursery –P7 parent/teacher/child interviews
- P4-7 attend Olympic sports Festival Alford campus

June

- Transition week in school & to academy
- Mini Highland Games cluster event
- P1-3 visit to Woodland school for a picnic lunch
- Nursery pupils visit Haughton Park for a picnic and games
- Visit by the Aberdeenshire Saxophone Quartet.
- Nursery Sports Day
- End of Year Assembly in Towie village hall celebrating achievement and showcasing learning. Barbeque and official opening of the outdoor classroom.