

Further Inspection (Record of Visit ROV) of St Luke's Primary School

Report by Maria Lloyd, Acting Head of Education

1 Purpose of Report

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their letter dated 5 March 2019.

2 Background

2.1 St Luke's Primary School was inspected in November 2018. The report was published on 5 March 2019. A copy is included in appendix one.

2.2 During the school's inspection in June 2017, Education Scotland identified a number of areas for improvement which were agreed with the school and Council Officers. As they were not sufficiently confident at that time about the school's capacity to continue to improve, they visited the school again in November 2018.

2.3 The main points for action from the original inspection in June 2017, which formed the focus of the further visit were:

1. **Staff should increase the opportunities for children to be actively involved in planning and assessing their own learning to increase their understanding of the purpose of learning.**

In November 2018, the inspection team identified the following strengths and progress during their further visit:

- Teachers plan effectively for children's learning and are increasingly developing confidence in using National Benchmarks to assess how well children are progressing across their learning.
- They make good use of a wide range of assessment information and analyse this to inform learning groups and support for those who require additional help in their learning.
- Senior leaders have taken a systematic approach to school improvement and developed strong approaches to self-evaluation. They have taken steps to build on improvements through rigorous monitoring and evidence gathering.
- The headteacher is effective in her role and is successfully leading changes in a well-judged and measured way.
- The school's vision has children's achievements and learning at the centre of all it does.

- Teachers and support staff work tirelessly to support children in their achievements.
- The school's positive ethos results from the shared ambition the staff team has for children.
- The headteacher and staff are approachable and enable parents to raise any concerns they may have.
- The school is responsive and welcoming.

The following areas were identified for further development during the visit:

- Continue to develop consistency in high quality learning and teaching and share good practice. Ongoing professional dialogue through continued moderation activities and the use of assessment to inform next steps in learning will, over time, lead to progression in all curricular areas.
- Continue to build on the promising start made to children's use and understanding of the language of learning.

2. Staff should work collaboratively to realise the whole school vision of raising attainment in a learning environment where staff and pupils have high expectations of themselves and each other

In November 2018, the inspection team identified the following strengths and progress during their further visit:

- It is clear that the school has an improved and shared understanding and commitment to raising attainment and achievement for all learners
- The headteacher has maintained a relentless focus on raising expectations, improving consistency in learning and teaching and ensuring achievement for all
- As result, the school is successfully addressing this area for improvement identified in the original inspection

The following areas were identified for further development during the visit:

- Sustain a strong focus on professional dialogue and children's progress
- Build on the positive start to tracking children's achievements. Involve children more in reviewing the particular skills they are developing as a result of their achievements
- As planned continue to develop approaches to teaching writing to ensure children make the best possible progress

2.6 Conclusion

As outlined in the inspection letter, Education Scotland is confident that the school has effective arrangements for ensuring continuous improvement in the quality of education for all learners. As a result Education Scotland will not return to the school with regard to this particular inspection.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

Areas for development will be in the school's improvement plan and will be monitored through the quality assurance process.

3.2 Risk

Education Scotland visits a sample of nursery, primary and secondary schools every year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs parents about the key strengths of the school, its capacity for further improvement and sets out the main points for action.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by School Group Managers and Senior Education Managers is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of any school to demonstrate its capacity to improve. In the case of this report, the school will continue to receive the same level of support as other schools as detailed in the 3-18 Improvement Team's quality assurance calendar. This will ensure that the school continues to improve.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- X Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- X Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The setting will continue to improve its work in line with its improvement plan and the Education Service will continue to challenge and support the setting in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The Education (Scotland) Act aims to take preventative action in order to close the attainment versus deprivation gap by implementing key policies and programmes which are designed to target support to children and young people from disadvantaged communities. Midlothian is highly committed to closing the attainment gap which compliments the strategies employed by Midlothian which are highlighted in the National Improvement Framework report which was presented to Council on 3 November 2015.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, parents of children currently in the school and other interested parties.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

The School Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The School Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT implications.

4 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the inspection report
- (ii) Congratulate the staff, pupils and parents on the very positive outcome of this further Education Scotland visit
- (iii) Note the key strengths and progress outlined in the report
- (ii) Note the areas for improvement outlined in the report
- (iii) Note that Education Scotland will not return to the school with regard to this particular inspection
- (iv) Pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

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