

Care Inspectorate Inspection of St Mary's Primary School Nursery Class

1 Purpose of Report

Further to the Cabinet report dated 28 February 2017 outlining the outcome of the HM Inspectorate of Education and the Care Inspectorate inspection which was communicated in their letter dated 21 February 2017, the purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the Care Inspectorate inspection completed on 27 September 2017.

2 Background

- 2.1** St Mary's Primary School was originally inspected on the week beginning 7 November 2016. The report was published on 21 February 2017. A further visit was undertaken by the Care Inspectorate in September and the findings were published in their report dated 27 September 2017.
- 2.2** Noted below are the Care Inspectorate evaluations for St Mary's Primary School Nursery Class in their letter dated 28 February 2017 and the most recent inspection dated 27 September 2017:

Care Inspectorate gradings for the nursery class:

Quality Indicator	28 February 2017	27 September 2017
Quality of Care and Support	Good	Very Good
Quality of Environment	Good	Very Good
Quality of Staffing	Good	Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Adequate	Very Good

This is a significant improvement for St Mary's Primary School Nursery class showing an improvement from good to very good in three indicators and an improvement from adequate to very good in the final indicator.

Further qualitative evaluations can be found in the narrative of the main report filed in appendix 1. These include:

- The Head Teacher and a new recently appointed peripatetic teacher had a clear vision for the on-going development of the nursery.
- The service has worked hard to continue to meet children's needs.
- Staff were fully aware of how to safe guard children in their care.
- Staff provided a wide range of stimulating opportunities in the playroom and outdoors which helped children to experience broad and purposeful learning.
- We found the staff to be trained, motivated and professional.
- Children approached staff for help and reassurance throughout the session which demonstrated that they had developed trusting relationships.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no financial and human resource implications associated with this report.

3.2 Risk

HMIE and the Care Inspectorate visit 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.

Following the publication of that report further visits may be made to the school, either by HMIE or by the Education Authority to assist improvement and monitor progress. A follow-through report on the progress of the school is published by either HMIE or by the Education Authority, normally within 2 years of the date of publication of the original report.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by Education Officers in the Quality Improvement Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of the school to demonstrate its capacity to improve.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ 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 requested to:

- (i) Note the content of the inspection report.
- (ii) Congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with St Mary's Primary School Nursery class on the significant improvements made since February 2017.
- (iii) Pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

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