

Inspection of Danderhall Primary School

Report by Michelle Strong, Chief Education Operating Officer, Children, Young People and Partnerships

1 Purpose of Report

The report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their report of April 2023.

2 Background

2.1 In February 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Danderhall Primary School. The report was published on 24 April 2023, is now published on the Education Scotland website and is available from this [link](#).

2.2 Education Scotland is responsible for inspecting education settings throughout Scotland. They do so using core quality indicators;

QI 1.3 Leadership of Change

QI 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment

QI 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion

QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement

2.3 The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

Confident and articulate children across the school and provision who are enthusiastic about their learning. They are keen and able to have a greater role in leadership across the school. The impact of the new senior leadership team. They have improved staff confidence and are implementing approaches that are beginning to improve children's attainment.

Staff work together effectively and support each other well. They recognise the positive impact of recent changes and are keen to continue to improve the school.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the acting headteacher and a representative from Midlothian Council.

The senior leadership team and staff should continue to develop approaches to evaluate the quality of the school's work to identify what needs to improve. As they do so, they should involve parents, children and other partners to ensure changes lead to improvements. Staff should improve learning, teaching and assessment to ensure the needs of all children are being met. Teaching staff should provide experiences for children that are creative, motivating and enjoyable.

The senior leadership team and staff should continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy. They should support children to develop skills and achieve success in a range of learning contexts.

All staff should work together to develop a curriculum to support children to have a better understanding of their own wellbeing and social and emotional needs.

2.5 Conclusion

Education Scotland 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. Midlothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

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

3.2 Risk

Education Scotland's team of Inspectors visit a sample of education settings every year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs parents about the key strengths of the setting and its capacity for further improvement.

Following the publication of the report further visits may be made to the setting, by the Education Authority to assist improvement and monitor progress.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by central officers in the Education Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of settings to demonstrate their 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 the school improvement plan and central officers in the Education Team 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) Bill 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 poverty related attainment gap.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

A link to the published report has been made available to Elected Members, parents of children currently attending Danderhall Primary 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

Performance Review and Scrutiny is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the inspection report.
- (ii) Congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with Danderhall Primary School on the key strengths highlighted in the report.

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Background Papers:

Inspection Report (attached).