

**Inspection of Saltersgate School****Report by Michelle Strong, Education Chief Operating Officer****Report for Information****1 Recommendations**

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Note the content of the inspection report.
- (ii) Pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.
- (iii) Congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with Saltersgate School on the key strengths highlighted in the report.

**2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary**

The report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their report of 26 September 2023.

**29 September 2023****Report Contact:**

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### 3 Background/Main Body of Report

3.1 In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Saltersgate School. The report was published on 26 September 2023, is now published on the Education Scotland website and is available from this [link](#)

3.2 Education Scotland is responsible for inspecting education settings throughout Scotland. They do so using core quality indicators and following the inspection awarded the following grades:

<b>QI</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>Learning, teaching and assessment – good</b>
<b>QI</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>Raising attainment and achievement – satisfactory</b>

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work; Staff have created a calm, caring and nurturing learning environment. There are strong relationships across the school. Children and young people are supported well to engage purposefully in learning activities. Children and young people use a wide range of approaches to communicate effectively. They listen well, make choices and confidently express their views. Staff have effective approaches to supporting young people well for life beyond school. They are working with a range of partners to tailor personalised programmes for each young person. As a result, young people are building their confidence to move on successfully to college or adult education.

3.3 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Head Teacher and a representative from Midlothian Council; Senior leaders and staff need to continue to review and refresh the school curriculum to improve children and young people's learning experience. In doing so, they should ensure that all learning activities build on what children and young people have already learned. Senior leaders and staff need to introduce approaches to help them understand better the progress children and young people are making in their learning. They should use these approaches to help ensure children and young people are attaining as well as possible.

### 4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

#### 4.1 Resource

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

#### 4.2 Digital

There are no IT implications.

#### 4.3 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.

**4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)**  
The School Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

**4.4 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)**

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A – Additional Report Implications**

**Appendix B – Background information/Links**

## APPENDIX A – Report Implications

### A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

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

### A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

### A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

### A.4 Delivering Best Value

As noted within.

### A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

A link to the published report has been made available to Elected Members, parents of children currently attending Saltersgate School and other interested parties.

### A.6 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.

**A.7 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.

**A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

The School Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

**APPENDIX B****Background Papers/Resource Links - [link](#)**