

Inspection of Mount Esk Nursery School

Report by Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate in October 2013.

2 Background

- 2.1 Mount Esk Nursery School and Nursery Class was inspected in October 2013 as part of a national sample of primary and nursery education. The report was published on 17 December 2013 and has been distributed to all Elected Members and Church Representatives on the Cabinet for their information. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages.
- 2.2 Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing. Noted below are Education Scotland's evaluations for Mount Esk Nursery School:

Improvements in performance	Very good
Children's experiences	Very good
Meeting learning needs	Very good

The Inspectors also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the nursery:

The curriculum	Very good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Very good

The Care Inspectorate also uses grades to ensure inspection activity is targeted and proportionate. The grades at inspection are awarded against four quality themes and the outcomes were as follows:

Quality of care and support	Very good
Quality of Environment	Very good
Quality of Staffing	Very good
Quality of management and leadership	Very good

2.3 The following key strengths were indicated by the inspection team:

- Children who are motivated and enthusiastic learners.
- The strong partnership with parents and other agencies which is leading to positive outcomes for children and their families.
- The approaches of staff to meet children's individual learning needs.
- Effective teamwork demonstrated by all staff and their determination to offer a high quality service.
- Leadership for learning provided by the Headteacher and her work in ensuring the nursery is a key part of the local community.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were agreed with the Education, Communities and Economy Division:

- Through reflecting on children's learning, continue to build on how staff use self-evaluation to determine the actions they take and the successes they achieve.
- Continue to take forward the priorities, as described in the nursery improvement plan, to build on the community within the nursery and the work with families and partners.

3 Conclusion

The inspection team have indicated that they are satisfied with the overall quality of provision and are confident that the nursery's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result they will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

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

4.2 Risk

Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visit a sample of schools and nursery classes 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 the Schools Group Manager and members of the 3-18 Improvement Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of the school to demonstrate its capacity to improve.

4.3 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

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes
Performance and outcomes will continue to be measured through the monitoring, review and evaluation process.

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach
The nursery will continue to improve its work in line with its improvement plan and the Education, Communities and Economy Division will continue to challenge and support the school in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders
Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, parents of young people currently in the nursery and other interested parties.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities
The Nursery Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development
The Nursery Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

4.9 IT Issues
There are no IT issues arising from this report.

5 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 Mount Esk Nursery School on the key strengths highlighted in the report; and

- (iv) note that, whilst acknowledging the progress reflected in this report, the Council will continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving excellence through further improving performance.

12 December 2013

Report Contact: Lorraine Brown
lorraine.brown@midlothian.gov.uk

Tel No: 0131 271 3718

Declaration Box

Instructions: This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.

Title of Report: Inspection of Mount Esk Nursery School

Meeting Presented to: Cabinet 14 January 2014

Author of Report: Lorraine Brown

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☒ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.*
- ☒ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.