

**Inspection of St Matthew's RC Primary School**

Report by Don Ledingham, Director, Education and Children's Services

**1 Purpose of Report**

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by HM Inspectors in October 2012.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 St Matthew's RC Primary School was inspected in October 2012 as part of a national sample of primary and nursery education. The report was published on 4 December 2012 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 the evaluations for St Matthew's RC Primary School.

Improvements in performance	Good
Learners' experiences	Very Good
Meeting learning needs	Very Good

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

The curriculum	Good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Good

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

- Polite, well-behaved children who are proud of their school
- Effective, partnerships with parents and the wider community to support children's learning.
- Children's knowledge and understanding of healthy lifestyles.
- The very effective teamwork of all staff and their commitment to the children.
- The impact of the acting Headteacher in improving the curriculum and approaches to learning and teaching.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were agreed between Education Scotland, the school and the Education and Children's Services Division:

- Continue to improve attainment in mathematics.
- Further improve achievement by developing quality programmes and courses across curriculum areas.
- Develop more systematic approaches to self-evaluation, which focus on further improvements to learning, teaching and attainment.

### **3 Conclusion**

Education Scotland have indicated that they are satisfied with the quality of provision at St Matthew's and are confident that the school will be able to make the necessary improvements in the light of the inspection findings. The school and the Education and Children's Services Division have been asked to keep parents informed about the school's progress.

## **4 Report Implications**

### **4.1 Resource**

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

### **4.2 Risk**

Education Scotland visit a sample of 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 Education Scotland 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 Education Scotland 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.

### **4.3 Policy**

#### **Strategy**

As part of Midlothian Council's commitment to excellence, the service will take a robust approach to driving forward improvement and the Council will continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to further improving performance.

## **Consultation**

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

## **Equalities**

The School Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

## **Sustainability**

The School Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

## **5 IT Issues**

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

## **6 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 St Matthew's RC Primary School on the key strengths highlighted in the report; and
- (iv) note that, whilst acknowledging 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.

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