

Inspection of Bilston Primary School Nursery Class

Report by Dr Grace Vickers, Head of Education, Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

The report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by the Care Inspectorate which was communicated in their report of August 2017.

2 Background

2.1 Bilston Primary School Nursery Class was inspected on 26 April 2017. The report was published on 30 August 2017 and has been distributed to all Elected Members and Church Representatives on the Cabinet for their information.

2.2 Following inspection, the Care Inspectorate gathers evaluations of core quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish Early Learning and Childcare settings and schools are doing. Noted below are the evaluations for Bilston Nursery Class.

Quality of care and support	6	- Excellent
Quality of environment	6	- Excellent
Quality of staffing	5	- Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	5	- Very Good

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

- The high quality environment rich in opportunity with free flowing access to the outdoor play area at all times.
- Staff plans provided an excellent example of responsive planning in action.
- Staff were reflective and aware of the impact and influence they had on the children in their care. Their interactions with children were purposeful and enriching as they strived to build children understanding and confidence of their world in everything they did. Their high expectations for the children were reflected in the level of trust and autonomy they gave children to lead their learning.
- The Head Teacher was a regular visitor to the nursery and had a strong commitment to making sure that the nursery was seen as part of the school community.
- The Head Teacher had a clear vision for the on-going development of the service. She was supported in this work by a reflective, innovative team who were committed to ensuring that every child was given the opportunities they needed to support their individual development and reach their potential.

2.4 There were no requirements or recommendations with this inspection.

2.5 Conclusion

Care Inspectorate have concluded that they are satisfied with the overall quality of provision.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

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

3.2 Risk

Care Inspectorate visit a sample of Early Learning and Childcare settings every year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs parents about the key strengths of the ELC setting and its capacity for further improvement.

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

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by Officers in the Early Years Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of ELC 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 the Early Years team from 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) 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 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 attending Bilston Nursery Class 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 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 Bilston Primary School Nursery Class on the key strengths highlighted in the report.

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Background Papers:

Inspection Report