

Inspection of Cornbank St James Primary School and Nursery Class**Report by Peter McNaughton, Head of Education****1 Purpose of Report**

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland in October 2014.

2 Background

- 2.1** Cornbank St James Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected in October 2014 as part of a national sample of primary and nursery education. The report was published on 9 December 2014 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 and nursery at all stages.

Pupil census details for 2014 indicate a total pupil roll of 237. The school's capacity is 330. The occupancy rate is 71.8%. Currently the nursery is a 20/20 provision with 100% occupancy. A new extension opening in January will increase nursery capacity.

- 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 Cornbank St James Primary School:

Improvements in performance	Good
Children's experiences	Good
Meeting learning needs	Good

Nursery class:

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

The Inspectors also evaluated the following aspects of work of the school and nursery class:

The curriculum	Good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Satisfactory

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

- Well-behaved and motivated children who are keen to learn.
- The commitment of staff to continue to improve their practice and children's learning experiences.

- Children's learning experiences in the local community.
- Parents' contribution to the life of the school.

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

- The school should continue to develop the curriculum and ensure that it improves the quality of children's learning experiences.
- The school should use its tracking and monitoring approaches more effectively to raise attainment.
- The school, including the nursery class, should develop further its approaches to self-evaluation, involving all stakeholders, to ensure continuous improvement in its work.

3 Conclusion

The inspection team has indicated that they are satisfied with the overall quality of provision and are confident that the school's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, they will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. However, the Council will inform parents about the school's performance.

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 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

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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 school will continue to improve its work in line with its improvement plan and the Education, Communities and Economy Directorate 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 school and nursery and other interested parties.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

The School Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The School 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 Cornbank St James Primary School and Nursery Class 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.

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