

Inspection of Gorebridge Primary School and Nursery Class**Report by Maria Lloyd, Acting Head of Education****1 Purpose of Report**

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their letter dated 26 March 2019.

2 Background

- 2.1 Gorebridge Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected in January 2019. The report was published on 26 March 2019. A copy is included in appendix one.
- 2.2 Following inspection, Education Scotland gathers evaluations of the core quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish Early, Learning and Childcare settings and schools are doing. This visit had a specific focus for Primary on QI 1.3, 2.3, 3.2 and 3.1. For the Nursery class the visit had a specific focus on QI 1.3, 2.3, 3.2 and 3.1. Education Scotland published a statement about the confidence they had in the school's capacity to continue to improve.

Noted below are the evaluations for Gorebridge Primary School and Nursery Class:

School

QI 1.3 Leadership of Change	Satisfactory
QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Satisfactory
QI 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement	Satisfactory
QI 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion	Satisfactory

Nursery Class

QI 1.3 Leadership of Change	Satisfactory
QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Satisfactory
QI 3.2 Securing Children's Progress	Satisfactory
QI 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion	Satisfactory

2.3 The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Children who are motivated and enthusiastic learners and take great pride in their school.
- The newly-appointed headteacher who has a clear vision for the school and is beginning to bring about positive change. He is building on the strong relationships and partnerships across the school community to support continued improvements.
- The senior leadership team and staff across the primary stages and nursery class who provide a supportive and nurturing ethos for children and their families.
- Partnership working within Newbattle Learning Community which takes good account of children and families. In particular, the early intervention and prevention project which is working well with families and leading to positive outcomes.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Midlothian Council.

- Continue to develop greater consistency in learning and teaching across the primary stages and nursery class to enable all children to make the best possible progress.
- Improve approaches to tracking and monitoring children's progress. To support this to be robust and reliable, continue to develop approaches to assessment and moderation.
- Continue to develop the curriculum as planned. In doing so, increase opportunities for outdoor learning and the use of digital technologies to support learning.
- Continue to review approaches to recording safeguarding and wellbeing concerns across the primary stages and nursery class.

2.5 Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

Nursery Class

Quality of care and support	Adequate
Quality of environment	Good
Quality of staffing	Adequate
Quality of management and leadership	Adequate

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection in February 2016 the setting had no requirements and three recommendations. From these, two recommendations have been met and one has not been met. Outstanding issues relating to the previous inspection are carried forward in this inspection relating the nursery having clear and consistent systems in place for the recording and administration of medication. As a result of the January 2019 inspection, there is one requirement and two recommendations.

Requirements

- In order to ensure children are effectively safeguarded the provider must review the child protection policy and procedures so that there is a clear and consistent process for acting upon and recording concerns by 1 March 2019. The provider must review all children's files and the systems used to record concerns to ensure that they provide clear information in line with current best practice guidance by 1 March 2019. This is in order to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) Welfare of users of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011/210 and ensure that care and support are consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that 'I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities' (HSCS 3.20).

Recommendations

- To ensure that staff effectively support and track children's learning, observations and next steps in children's learning folios should be improved. The service should support staff to develop their understanding of how to assess children's learning and record quality observations so that they can effectively monitor and track children's progress. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that 'I am supported to achieve my potential in education' (HSCS 1.27).

- To ensure children's health and wellbeing is maintained, the nursery should ensure clear and consistent systems are in place for the recording and administration of medication. They should ensure that records clearly identify the symptoms and plan of action to be taken. The medication policy should be updated to ensure it provides clarity on the recording, administration, and storage of medication in line with current best practice. This is in order to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which states 'I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice' (HSCS 4.11).

2.6 Conclusion

As outlined in the inspection letter, Education Scotland is confident that the school has effective arrangements for ensuring continuous improvement in the quality of education for all learners. As a result Education Scotland will not return to the school with regard to this particular inspection.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

A Schools Group Manager will continue to directly support the school to improve performance in QIs 1.3, 2.3, 3.2 and 3.1. Actions related to the Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will form part of the school's improvement plan and will be monitored through the quality assurance process.

The Early Years team will directly support the Nursery with the resulting requirements and recommendations.

3.2 Risk

Education Scotland visits a sample of nursery, 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.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by School Group Managers and Senior Education Managers is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of any school to demonstrate its capacity to improve. In the case of this report, the school will continue to receive the same level of support as other schools as detailed in the 3-18 Improvement Team's quality assurance calendar. This will ensure that the school continues to improve.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- X Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- X 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 its improvement plan and 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) Act 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 (NIF) report which was initially presented to Council on 3 November 2015. The NIF is updated annually and reported to the Scottish Government.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, parents of children currently in the school 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) Congratulate the staff, pupils and parents on the positive outcome of this inspection
- (iii) Note the key strengths outlined in the report
- (ii) Note the areas for improvement which will be supported by Schools Group Managers and the Early Years team to improve
- (iii) Note the requirements and recommendations for the Care Inspectorate
- (iv) Note that Education Scotland will not return to the school with regard to this particular inspection
- (v) Pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

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