

Inspection of Lasswade High School Centre

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 November 2012.

2 Background

2.1 Lasswade High School Centre was inspected in November 2012 as part of a national sample of primary and nursery education. The report was published on 8 January 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 the evaluations for Lasswade High School Centre:

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

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

The curriculum	Satisfactory
Improvement through self-evaluation	Weak

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

- Positive, courteous young people who are interested in learning.
- The impact of partnership working in providing support to young people's learning and achievement.
- The commitment of teachers and support staff to ensure positive outcomes for young people.

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

- Increase the pace of curriculum development to ensure young people's needs and entitlements are fully met.

- Improve the impact of self-evaluation on learning, teaching and achievement.
- Improve senior leadership and team-working for school improvement and achieving a mutual sense of purpose across the school.

3 Conclusion

Education Scotland have indicated that within one year of the publication of this report they will return to evaluate aspects of provision and the progress in improving provision within the school. At that time a further letter will be issued to parent.

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 support will be given to the school by Education Scotland and by the Education Authority to assist improvement and monitor progress. A follow-through report on the progress of the school will published by either Education Scotland or by the Education Authority, within 1 year of the date of publication of the original report.

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 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 young people 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 Lasswade High School Centre 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.

7 January 2013

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

Tel No: 0131 271 3718