

Inspection of Mayfield Nursery School

Report by Dr Mary Smith, Director of Education, Communities and Economy

1.0 Purpose of Report

The report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by HM Inspectorate of Education and the Care Commission which was communicated in their letter dated 28 June 2016.

2.0 Background

2.1 Mayfield Nursery was inspected on the week beginning 30 May 2016. The report was published on 28 June 2016 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 Nursery including the 'I Can' Speech, Language and Communication unit.

2.2 Following inspection, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of five 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 Mayfield Nursery:

Improvements in Performance	Very Good
Children's Experiences	Very Good
Meeting Learning Needs	Excellent
Curriculum	Very Good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Excellent

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

- Confident, resilient children who thoroughly enjoy their nursery experience.
- The welcoming and inclusive ethos, created by staff, where children feel respected and encouraged to be the best they can be.
- Children's progress in communication, early language and literacy.
- Strong relationships and productive partnerships with external agencies.
- The highly effective leadership of the acting headteacher and commitment to self-evaluation.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were agreed between HMIE, the Nursery and the Education service:

- Develop further the current arrangements for improvements to ensure appropriate and well-informed change.

- 2.5** In addition, the Care Commission also evaluated the Nursery provision as follows and concluded, as a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations. :

Quality of Care and Support	Excellent
Quality of Environment	Excellent
Quality of Staffing	Excellent
Quality of Management and Leadership	Excellent

2.6 Conclusion

HMIE have concluded that they are satisfied with the overall quality of provision. They are confident that the Nursery's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, HMIE will make no further evaluative visits in connection with this inspection.

During the inspection, HMIE identified an aspect of innovative practice which they would like to explore further in order to share the practice with others. As a result HMIE will work with the Nursery and local authority in order to record and share more widely the innovative practice.

3.0 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

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

3.2 Risk

HMIE visit 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.

Following the publication of that report further visits may be made to the school, either by HMIE 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 HMIE 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.

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) 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 complements 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 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.

4.0 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; and
- (iii) congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with Mayfield Nursery School on the key strengths and innovative practice highlighted in the report;

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Background Papers:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/eyc/MayfieldNurserySchoolDalkeithMidlothian.asp>

Appendix 1 – Inspection Report

Appendix 2 – Additional evidence