

Inspection of Mauricewood Primary School and Nursery Class

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

1 Purpose of Report

The report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by HM Inspectorate of Education which was communicated in their letter dated 30 August 2016.

2 Background

- 2.1** Mauricewood Primary School was inspected on the week beginning 16 May 2016. The report was published on 30 August 2016 and has been distributed to all Elected Members and Church Representatives on the Cabinet for their information.
- 2.2** Following inspection, Education Scotland 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 Mauricewood Primary School:

Primary School

Improvements in Performance	Good
Learners' Experiences	Good
Meeting Learning Needs	Very Good

Nursery Class

Improvements in Performance	Very Good
Childrens' Experiences	Very Good
Meeting Learning Needs	Good

Primary School and Nursery Class

The Curriculum	Good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Satisfactory

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

- The supportive and inclusive ethos where children are happy, polite, settled and enjoy learning together.
- Staff who are keen to improve their professional practice in order to improve children's learning and achievement.
- The flexible approaches taken by staff to meet the range of social, emotional and learning needs of children.
- Highly motivated nursery children who are actively engaged in making decisions about their learning.

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

- Continue to develop the curriculum to provide progression in all aspects of learning.
- Continue to improve approaches to assessing and tracking children's learning, helping them to understand their own progress and achievements.
- Improve approaches to school self-evaluation with a clear focus on improving outcomes for children.

2.5 Conclusion

HMIE have concluded that they are satisfied with the overall quality of provision. They are confident that the school's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, HMIE will make no further evaluative visits in connection with this inspection. The local authority will carry out a follow up inspection to review the progress with the action plan with a specific focus on self-evaluation and will report back within 2 years of the date of the initial inspection report.

3 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 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 Mauricewood Primary School and Nursery Class on the key strengths and areas for improvement highlighted in the report;

06 September 2016

Report Contact: Cathy Lailvaux

Tel No: 0131 271 3718

E-mail: cathy.lailvaux@midlothian.gov.uk

Background Papers:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/primsec/MauricewoodPrimarySchoolMidlothian.asp>