

## **Inspection of St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Class**

### **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 Inspectorate which was communicated in their letter dated 21 February 2017.

#### **2.0 Background**

**2.1** St Mary's Primary School was inspected on the week beginning 7 November 2016. The report was published on 21 February 2017 and has been distributed to all Elected Members and Church Representatives on the Cabinet for their information. 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. Noted below are the evaluations for St Mary's Primary School and Nursery class:

##### Primary Stages

Leadership of change	Good
Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

##### Nursery Stage

Leadership of change	Satisfactory
learning, Teaching and Assessment	Satisfactory
Securing children's progress	Satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Satisfactory

##### Care Inspectorate gradings for the nursery class:

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

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

- The experienced headteacher who has gained a high level of respect for the school within its community.
- Children who are confident, enjoy learning and are motivated to do their best.
- All children in the primary stages are involved in committees and have ideas about how to make further improvements to their school. They feel valued and are well cared for by staff. Across the nursery class and primary stages, staff work well with parents and other professional partners to support children.
- Children are making good progress in literacy and in particular are developing effective talking and listening skills.
- The school provides well-targeted support for children who have additional support needs and strives to ensure they make the best progress possible.

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

- Further develop the shared leadership of change across the school and in particular of the nursery class.
- Continue to improve consistency in the quality of learning, teaching and the use of assessment.
- Raise attainment and the level of challenge for all children.

In addition, the Care Inspectorate identified one requirement and six recommendations which can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the inspection letter as filed in appendix 1

### **2.5 Conclusion**

HMIE have concluded that they are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so Education Scotland will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Midlothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any requirements and recommendations made as a result of this inspection. The Care Inspectorate will return within twelve months to inspect the progress the nursery has made.

## **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) 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 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**

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the content of the inspection report
- (ii) congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with St Mary's Primary School on the key strengths highlighted in the report
- (iii) note the areas for further development
- (iv) note that the Care Inspectorate will return within twelve months to inspect the progress the nursery has made.

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