

Inspection of Hawthornden Primary School

Report by Dr Grace Vickers, Head of Education

1.0 Purpose of Report

The report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their letter dated 20 June 2017.

2.0 Background

2.1 A new Head Teacher was appointed to Hawthornden Primary School, which appointment took effect on 09 January 2017, following the departure of the previous Head Teacher in August 2016. In the interim, the school was managed by an Acting Head Teacher. Hawthornden Primary School was inspected on the week beginning 06 March 2017. The report was published on 23 June 2017 and has been distributed to all Portfolio Holders 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 Hawthornden Primary School:

Primary Stages

Leadership of change	Satisfactory
Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Satisfactory
Raising Attainment and Achievement	Satisfactory

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

- The good start of the newly appointed Head Teacher in making improvements to the school.
- Children who enthusiastically speak about strategies to support their learning.
- Positive relationships between children, staff and the emphasis and impact on parental partnerships.
- Staff who are engaged in practitioner enquiry and are enthusiastic about developing the work of the school.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were agreed between Education Scotland, the School and the Education service:

- Improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the school to ensure all children are making the best possible progress in their learning.
- To raise attainment in literacy and numeracy, staff need to improve the use of assessment information during the course of their teaching to meet the individual needs of children.
- Develop flexible curricular pathways, to ensure that there are shared standards and expectations across the school so that children make the best possible progress in their learning.
- Ensure that the specialist provision is better integrated within the school so that children, particularly on part-time placements achieve their full entitlement to a broad general education.

2.5 Conclusion

Education Scotland will ask for a report on progress within 12 months of the inspection. This report will inform any decision made by Education Scotland regarding further engagement. This may include another inspection visit. When such a decision is made, Education Scotland will again write to Midlothian Council detailing the improvements the school has made and outline any further action, in agreement with Midlothian Council, that they intend to take. Midlothian Council will continue to inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

3.0 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

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

3.2 Risk

Education Scotland 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 Education Scotland 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 Education Scotland 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
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ 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 & Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the inspection report.
- Note the areas for further development.
- Note the positive steps by Education Scotland to review their findings in twelve month's time.

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Background Papers: (Please see Appendix 1 – Inspection - HawthorndenPS)