

## **Inspection of King's Park Primary School and Nursery Class**

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

### **1 Purpose of Report**

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by HM Inspectors in May 2013.

### **2 Background**

- 2.1 King's Park Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected in May 2013 as part of a national sample of primary and nursery education. The report was published on 27 August 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 King's Park Primary School and Nursery Class:

	Primary School	Nursery Class
Improvements in performance	Very Good	Good
Learners' experiences	Very Good	Satisfactory
Meeting learning needs	Good	Good

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

The curriculum	Good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Good

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

- Very well-behaved children who achieve very well in literacy and numeracy.
- Children at the primary stages who are highly motivated and able to talk about their learning and what they need to do to improve.
- Highly-committed staff who work very well together to improve outcomes for children.
- The impact of the Headteacher and senior management team in developing a culture of improvement.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were agreed between Education Scotland, the school and the Education, Communities and Economy Division:

- Support children to be more involved in their learning in the nursery class.
- Continue to develop the arrangements to meet the needs of all children.
- Further improve self-evaluation.

### 3 **Conclusion**

Education Scotland have indicated that they are satisfied with the overall quality of provision and are confident that the school's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result they will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

### 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 be 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 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

- 4.4 **Impact on Performance and Outcomes**  
Performance and outcomes will continue to be measured through the monitoring, review and evaluation process.
- 4.5 **Adopting a Preventative Approach**  
The school will continue to improve its work in line with its improvement plan and the Education, Communities and Economy Division will continue to challenge and support the school in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.
- 4.6 **Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**  
Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, parents of young people currently in the school and other interested parties.
- 4.7 **Ensuring Equalities**  
The School Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.
- 4.8 **Supporting Sustainable Development**  
The School Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.
- 4.9 **IT Issues**  
There are no IT issues arising from this report.

## **5 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 King's Park Primary School and Nursery Class on the key strengths highlighted in the report; and
- (iv) note that, whilst acknowledging the 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.

**20 August 2013**

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### *Declaration Box*

*Instructions: This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.*

*Title of Report: Inspection of Hawthorn Children and Families Centre*

*Meeting Presented to: Cabinet 28 May 2013*

*Author of Report: Sheena Dawe*

*I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-*

- ☒ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.*
- ☒ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

*For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.*

*Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.*