

Inspection of Roslin Primary School and Nursery Class

Report by Dr Grace Vickers, Head of Education

1 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 19 December 2017.

2 Background

2.1 Roslin Primary School and Nursery class was inspected in October 2017. The report was published on 19 December 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 Roslin Primary School and Nursery class:

Primary Stages

Leadership of change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Very Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

Nursery Stage

Leadership of change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Securing children's progress	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

2.3 The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The headteacher and her principal teacher who have led and supported staff in delivering high quality teaching for all children. This includes encouraging and supporting staff to think creatively, for example, in the whole school approach taken to improving children's attainment in writing.
- In the primary stages, children know themselves well as learners and can talk confidently within an inclusive and supportive classroom environment. The positive classroom ethos, and a focus on individual learners, enables all children to achieve success and to feel valued. In the nursery children receive positive interactions with staff who respond well to their learning interests.

- The rich and varied learning experiences offered to children across the school and nursery. At the primary stages, this includes learning across the expressive arts and in the nursery through high quality learning outdoors. Primary children experience music and singing and the opportunity to link with their local community through drama, as tour guides at Roslyn Chapel. All of this is helping to develop children's confidence and communication skills.

2.4 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Midlothian Council:

- Staff should refine approaches to implementing innovation, based on a clear rationale, in order to ensure a positive impact and to ensure outcomes are sustainable for learners.
- Children in the nursery would benefit from building their opportunities in play, in order to further develop literacy skills.
- Continue to build on approaches to assessment to ensure robust evidence of children's progress and next steps in learning.

2.5 Conclusion

Education Scotland 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.

3 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 School Managers and Senior Education Managers 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 compliments 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) Congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with Roslin Primary School and Nursery Class on the key strengths highlighted in the report
- (iii) Note the areas for further development
- (iv) Pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

19 December 2017

Report Contact:

Julie Currie, Tel No: 0131 271 3719

E-mail: Julie.currie@midlothian.gov.uk