

Report

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Report to:	Hamilton Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 February 2007
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	HMle Report - St Mark's Primary School, Hamilton
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise the Hamilton Area Committee of the outcome of the inspection of St Mark's Primary School by HM Inspectors.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) to note the HMle report on St Mark's Primary School.

3. Background

- 3.1 St Mark's Primary School was inspected in June 2006 as part of a national sample of primary education.
- 3.2 HM Inspectors evaluated pupils' achievements, the effectiveness of the school, the environment for learning, the school's processes for self evaluation and capacity for improvement. There was particular focus on learning, teaching and attainment in English language and mathematics.
- 3.3 HM Inspectors examined pupils' work and interviewed staff and pupils. They analysed questionnaires issued to all parents, staff and pupils. They also met members of the parent-teacher association and a group of parents.

4. Findings of HM Inspectors

4.1 The inspectors made comments under the following headings:-

- Key strengths
- What are the views of parents, carers, pupils and staff?
- How good are learning, teaching and attainment?
- How well are pupils supported?
- How good is the environment for learning?
- Improving the school

4.2 Key Strengths of the school

- Staff's commitment to the school and to the care and welfare of pupils.
- Recent improvements in attainment in mathematics.

- The leadership of the new headteacher and her plans for future improvement.
- 4.3 The inspectors found that the school provided pupils with a generally broad curriculum and that the quality of teaching varied across the school.
- 4.4 The school's arrangements for the care and welfare of pupils were good. However, there were important weaknesses in how well pupils' learning needs were met.
- 4.5 The quality of attainment in English language was adequate and in mathematics was good.
- 4.6 The school had a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Staff and pupils had a strong sense of identity and pride in the school. The school's partnership with parents and the community was good.
- 4.7 The overall quality of accommodation and facilities was good. However, classroom displays were not stimulating.
- 4.8 The inspectors recognised that it had been an unsettled period for staff and pupils in recent years. They strongly commended the clear vision of the new headteacher which had a strong focus on learning and teaching and improving the quality of pupils' experiences.
- 4.9 The inspectors identified the following as the main points for action for the school and the education authority:
 - Ensure that tasks and activities provide sufficient challenge and support to meet the needs of all learners
 - Continue to improve attainment across the school, especially in English language
 - Raise expectations and develop a whole school approach to promoting and celebrating achievement
 - Develop systematic and rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school.
- 4.10 The school and the education authority have prepared an action plan which indicates how they will address the main findings of the report. HM Inspectors will continue to engage with the school and the education authority in monitoring progress and will undertake a follow through inspection within two years. This will result in another report to parents on the extent of improvement that has been achieved.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1 None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 None

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 None

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Consultation has taken place with parents, local elected members and staff.

Ken Arthur

Executive Director (Education Resources)

30 January 2007

Links to Council Objectives

- Learning in the Community
- Supporting Communities

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

HMle Report on the inspection of St Mark's Primary School, Hamilton

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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