

Report

Report to:	Clydesdale Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 September 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Scotland Report – Biggar High School
----------	---

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the outcome of the inspection of Biggar High School by Education Scotland inspectors

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Education Scotland Report on Biggar High School be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Biggar High School was inspected in March 2018 as part of a national sample of secondary education.
- 3.2. As part of the revised approach to inspection, the Education Scotland inspectors evaluated the leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; raising attainment and achievement and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion.
- 3.3. The inspection team analysed questionnaires issued to a sample of parents, pupils and to all staff. Inspectors observed class lessons and interviewed groups of pupils, including the pupil council, and staff. Members of the inspection team also met parents and members of the local community.
- 3.4. The report by Education Scotland was published on 22 May 2018.

4. Findings of Education Scotland Inspectors

4.1. Education Scotland made comment under the following headings:-

- ◆ quality of leadership and management
- ◆ learning provision
- ◆ children's successes and achievements

4.2. Education Scotland found that Biggar High School provides children and young people with a good educational experience. Overall, the majority of children at S3 have achieved SCQF level 3 in both literacy and numeracy with most or almost all having achieved SCQF level 4 or above on leaving school.

4.3. The particular strengths of the school were identified as follows:-

- ◆ the effective leadership of the headteacher and depute head teachers in promoting a culture of professional learning. Staff are using their learning to initiate change and take forward developments and as a result, young people's experiences are improving in a range of areas
- ◆ the caring ethos and positive relationships across the school which result in young people being motivated and engaged and who feel well supported to learn and achieve
- ◆ the increasing range of learning pathways from S4 to S6 which are meeting the different needs and aspirations of young people well. Almost all go on to a positive destination such as college, higher education or employment on leaving school
- ◆ the wide range of opportunities provided by staff and partners for young people to achieve. Young people can develop skills, pursue personal interests and showcase their talents in a range of ways. The school pays particular attention to the rural context of its catchment area and offers activities such as lunchtime clubs that all can access

4.5. Education Scotland identified the following areas for continued improvement:-

- ◆ continue to improve learning and teaching across the school to meet the needs of all learners and raise attainment through developing a shared understanding across all staff of what high-quality learning and teaching looks like in Biggar High School
- ◆ review the curriculum for S1 to S3 to ensure that all young people receive their entitlement to a broad general education. The arrangements for specialisation as young people move from S2 to S3 should ensure that young people have a continuing experience in each of the curriculum areas
- ◆ review recording systems and processes related to young people's wellbeing. These include the recording of concerns or incidents. Ensure that systems and procedures are clear to all, and are applied consistently and robustly. This will help to ensure wellbeing outcomes for all young people are improving

4.6. These areas for improvement have been incorporated into the school's improvement plan. Progress on the identified areas for improvement will be shared with parents.

4.7. Education Scotland have intimated that they are confident that the school will be able to take forward the areas for improvement and will make no more visits in connection with this report. The local authority will inform parents about the school's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of its schools.

4.8. Additional inspection evidence can be accessed by clicking the following web link below:-

<https://education.gov.scot/assets/inspectionreports/biggarhsaie220518.pdf>

5. Employee Implications

5.1. None.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. None.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report which is provided for information only.
- 7.2. There are no significant sustainability issues in connection with the recommendations contained within this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 8.2. The content of Education Scotland reports are shared with parents and discussed at Parent Council meetings.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

14 August 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Raise educational achievement and attainment
- ◆ Increase involvement in lifelong learning
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Improve and maintain health and increase physical activity

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Education Scotland Report of 22 May 2018

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-
Carole McKenzie, Head of Education (Clydesdale)
Ext: 4468 (Tel: 01698 454468)
E-mail: carole.mckenzie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk