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| Report to: | Clydesdale Area Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 13 February 2007 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Education Resources) |

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| Subject: | HMle Report - Carmichael Primary School |
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the outcome of the inspection of Carmichael Primary School by HM Inspectors.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the HMle report on Carmichael Primary School be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Carmichael 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 a particular focus on attainment in English language and mathematics.

3.3. HM Inspectors examined pupils' work and interviewed groups of pupils, including the pupil council, staff, a group of parents and the chairperson of the School Board. They analysed questionnaires issued to all parents and staff and to P4 to P7 pupils.

4. Findings of HM Inspectors

4.1. The Inspectors made comment under the following headings:

- Key strengths
- Views of parents, pupils and staff
- How good are learning, teaching and achievement?
- How well are pupils supported?
- How good is the environment for learning?
- Improving the school

4.2. The Inspectors reported that the following were key strengths:

- Polite, courteous and well-behaved pupils
- Staff who worked very well as a team

- The overall ethos and the attention given to pupils' care and welfare
- High quality relationships and partnerships amongst parents, pupils, staff and the community.

4.3. Parents were highly satisfied with almost all aspects of the school's work. They thought it had a very good reputation in the community and that staff made them feel welcome and were good at letting them know their child's strengths and weaknesses. Pupils were pleased with most aspects of provision. They agreed that staff explained things clearly and were good at helping them when they had difficulties. All pupils agreed they were involved in decisions on how to make the school better. Staff were very content with all aspects of the school, felt valued and fully involved in the life of the school, had good opportunities for training and enjoyed coming to their work.

4.4. The Inspectors found the curriculum, teaching processes and pupils' learning experiences to be good. School clubs enhanced pupil experiences. They found attainment in English language and mathematics to be very good. Overall, pupils were well-motivated and mainly enthusiastic learners. They were making very good progress in developing self-confidence and self-esteem, took responsibility for aspects of school life, were learning to be responsible citizens, were involved in enterprise activities and were aware of the needs of others. The Inspectors felt that some pupils were not sufficiently challenged by the pace of their learning.

4.5. The Inspectors found that the school had very good arrangements for pastoral care of pupils. All staff were caring and approachable and showed commitment to ensuring pupils' emotional and physical well-being. Staff provided good support for meeting the needs of most pupils with differing levels of attainment. Teachers and support staff worked well together to provide effective support for pupils. The learning needs of pupils requiring additional support were very well identified and supported.

4.6 The Inspectors found the quality of accommodation to be adequate but that staff made good use of it and created a bright and stimulating learning environment. Access for disabled users was limited due to stairs and there was limited storage space. Staff, pupils and parents had a strong sense of identity and pride in their school. Staff had created a warm and welcoming environment. Provision relating to equality and fairness was good but approaches to race equality should be developed further. The school's partnership with parents and the local community were very good.

4.7. The Inspectors reported that the Head Teacher provided good leadership. She had successfully involved staff in working together to improve further the work of the school. They found the arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the work of the school to be good and that the school had the clear capacity to ensure continuing improvement. They said that, working together, the Head Teacher and staff were well placed to further improve the work of the school.

4.8. HMI identified the following as the main points for action by the school and the Education Authority:

Improve learning, teaching and meeting needs, taking account of the need to

- ensure tasks are sufficiently challenging to meet the needs of all pupils; and

- continue to develop systematic approaches to monitoring and evaluating learning and teaching and tracking pupils' progress.

4.9. An action plan to take forward these points will be drawn up by the Head Teacher and Education Resources.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

6.1. None

7. Other Implications

7.1. None

8. Consultation

8.1. Staff, Head Teacher and Head of Learning Community have drawn up an Action Plan to address the main points for action. The School Board and elected member will remain fully informed of progress.

Ken Arthur
Executive Director (Education Resources)

31 January 2007

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Learning in the Community
- Supporting Communities

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- HMle Report of 24 October 2006

Contact for Further Information

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

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