

Report

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Report to:	Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 June 2009
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	HMle Follow Through Report - St Charles Primary School
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee of the outcome of the follow through inspection of St Charles' Primary School by HMI inspectors.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the HMle follow through report on St Charles' Primary School be noted.

3. Background

3.1. St Charles' Primary School was inspected in 2007 as part of a national sample of primary education. A follow through inspection was carried out in March 2008 and a report was published on that visit in May 2008. This follow through report is based on an inspection visit which was carried out in February 2009.

3.2. HM inspectors evaluated improvements since the original inspection in the quality of education which the school provides. It also commented on how the school is getting on with the main points of action.

3.3. The Head Teacher at the time of the original inspection retired and an acting Head Teacher was appointed in August 2007. She was confirmed in the post of head Teacher in June 2008.

4. Findings of HM Inspectors

4.1. The inspectors made comment under the following headings:

- Particular strengths of the school.
- Examples of good practice.
- How well do children learn and achieve?
- How well do staff work with others to support children's learning?
- Are staff and children actively involved in improving their school community?
- Does the school have high expectations of all children?
- Does the school have a clear sense of direction?

4.2. The inspectors identified the following as being particular strengths of the school:

- Polite, courteous, well-behaved children who are eager to learn.
- The welcoming ethos and very positive relationships within the school.
- Improvements in children's progress in mathematics.
- Constructive partnerships with parents, the local parishes and wider community.
- Staff teamwork and their commitment to improving the work of the school.
- The impact on improving children's experiences.

4.3. HM inspectors highlighted the school's links with the wider community as an example of good practice.

5. **How well do children learn and achieve?**

5.1. The inspection team found that children are now making good, and in some cases, very good progress in their learning. They find lessons much more interesting and are taking a more active and confident role in their learning. Teachers are providing a much broader range of activities and are taking very positive steps to develop children's skills as independent learners. Children's attainment in reading, writing and mathematics has improved. All children are developing citizenship skills through a range of activities within the school and in the wider community.

5.2. **How do staff work with others to support children's learning?**

The inspectors reported that teamwork and communication among staff have greatly improved. A Parent Council is in place and they are very supportive of the school. They are pleased with the improvements that have taken place. There are a wide range of activities which strengthen home/school partnership. Across the school, the management of support for children's learning is much better. There are clear procedures in place to identify and support children with additional support needs. There are much improved links between the school and the local parishes. The Head Teacher and staff are clearly promoting the school as a community of faith.

6. **Are children and staff actively involved in improving their school community?**

6.1. Inspectors found that children are very confident and enthusiastic about taking responsibility and helping the school. They have achieved success by gaining a health promotion award and bronze award from Eco-Schools Scotland. Children are confident that their views are listened to and valued. Staff are much more committed to making the school a happy and welcoming place of learning. They work together well and now share a much more positive ethos.

7. **Does the school have high expectations of all children?**

7.1. The inspection team reported that staff and children have increased their expectations in relation to behaviour, attendance and achievement. There is now a consistent, whole school approach to promoting and rewarding positive behaviour and achievement. Staff and children have very positive relationships. The climate for learning has much improved.

8. **Does the school have a clear sense of direction?**

8.1 With a very strong lead from the Head Teacher, HM Inspectors stated that the school now has a very clear sense of direction. The school has made good progress and significant improvements have taken place. The Head Teacher has taken very effective steps to improve key aspects of the school's work. Staff, parents and pupils have responded very well to her leadership. Class teachers feel more supported and are enthusiastic about leading curricular developments. There are now more effective procedures in place to monitor and evaluate the work of the school.

9. **What happens next?**

- 9.1. HMle reported clear evidence of significant improvement since the original inspection. The school is performing much better overall. Since the school is well placed to continue to improve, HM inspectors will make no further visits in connection with the inspection report of June 2007.

10. Employee Implications

- 10.1 None

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 None

12. Other Implications

- 12.1 None

13. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 13.1 There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment.

Larry Forde

Executive Director (Education Resources)

20 May 2009

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Supporting Communities
- Learning in the Community

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- HMle Report of June 2007
- HMle Follow Through Report of May 2009

Contact for Further Information

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

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