

Report

Report to:	Hamilton Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 May 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Scotland Report – St Bride’s Primary School and Nursery Class
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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 St Bride’s Primary School and Nursery Class 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 St Bride’s Primary School and Nursery Class be noted.

3. Background

3.1. St Bride’s Primary School and Nursery Class were inspected in February 2019 as part of a national sample of primary and nursery education.

3.2. As part of the revised approach to inspection, the Education Scotland inspectors evaluated the learning, teaching and assessment and raising attainment and achievement using the short visit inspection model.

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 April 23 2019.

4. Findings of Education Scotland Inspectors

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

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

4.2. Inspectors acknowledge that Health and Wellbeing is a strong feature of the nursery. Staff ensure opportunities for children to access a variety of experiences which support their physical, emotional and social development. The impact of this is that children can share and co-operate, are friendly and caring, they are independent in hygiene routines, and are motivated to develop their early leadership skills.

- 4.3. Children in the nursery are making very good progress in their early literacy and numeracy skills according to their stages of development and that a wide range of engaging and relevant experiences within a rich indoor and outdoor learning environment in the nursery is supporting their progress.
- 4.4. Inspectors report that St Bride's school children's attainment in mathematics and numeracy and English language and literacy is very good. They recognise that there is a clear focus on raising attainment across the school. The senior leadership team and teachers meet regularly to track and monitor children's progress, planning and implementing appropriate interventions to ensure, as far as possible, that children can continue to improve. Children who have additional support needs have their progress towards their targets reviewed regularly.
- 4.5. An area of strength in the school is the quality of learners' achievements. A wide range of clubs is provided for children by staff and partners, which are well attended and children speak very positively about the benefits of these clubs. In addition the school offers children the opportunity to select and participate in masterclasses. These encourage children to develop a wider range of interests and skills. Some of these activities are led regularly by P7 children. Children value their involvement in the SportScotland Award and the Pope Francis Award which are supported well by members of the school community. Notably, senior leaders track children's engagement in activities to ensure that all are recognised for their participation.
- 4.6. Particular strengths of the school were identified as follows:-
- The commitment and dedication of the headteacher and her staff to the children and their parents. The high expectations set for children which is resulting in positive attainment outcomes.
 - The warm and welcoming ethos across the school, enhanced by positive supportive relationships. The staff and parents who work together very well, aspiring to the best possible experiences for all children.
 - The children across the school who are confident and enthusiastic learners. They are respectful of each other and of staff and are very proud of their school and nursery.
 - The strong partnerships with the broader school community which enrich children's learning. The approach to keeping track of children's achievements in the primary school, which is helping to ensure all are included and involved.
- 4.7. Building on the strength of the school, Education Scotland identified the following areas for continued improvement:-
- Develop with all staff a clear and shared understanding of high quality learning and teaching. Involve children more in leading their learning and further promote the children's voice in shaping the direction of the school. This will build their leadership skills.
 - Review the curriculum to ensure that it takes full account of current national guidance, including the use of the National Benchmarks. Staff should extend the existing tracking system across all areas of the curriculum.

- Teachers should increase the pace of lessons and the challenge of learning activities, to make sure that every child is stretched and achieves their full potential.

4.8. 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.

4.8. Education Scotland have intimated that they are confident that the school will be able to take forward the area 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.

4.9. Additional inspection evidence can be accessed by clicking the following web link below.

<https://education.gov.scot/assets/inspectionreports/stbridespsaie230419.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)

1 May 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

Education Scotland Report of 23 April 2019

Contact for Further Information

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

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