

# Report

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| Report to:       | <b>East Kilbride Area Committee</b>             |
| Date of Meeting: | <b>9 March 2011</b>                             |
| Report by:       | <b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b> |

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| Subject: | <b>HMIe Report - St Patrick's Primary and Nursery Class, Strathaven</b> |
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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 Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Class by HM Inspectors

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) to note the HMIe Report on St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Class.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected in November 2010 as part of a national sample of primary education.
- 3.2 HM Inspectors evaluated improvements in performance, learners' experiences, meeting learning needs, the curriculum, the school's processes for improvement through self-evaluation and its capacity for improvement.
- 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 HM Inspectorate was published on 18 January 2011.

## 4. Findings of HM Inspectors

4.1 HMIe made comment under the following headings:

- Particular strengths of the school
- 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 HM Inspectors found that St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Class provided pupils with a very good quality of education. In the nursery and primary classes, the school has made a very good start to reviewing plans and teaching approaches by using *Curriculum for Excellence*. HM Inspectors found that almost all children achieve appropriate national levels in reading and mathematics and are using information and communications technology (ICT) as an integral part of their learning. Children improve their fitness in fast-paced physical education lessons, which use a variety of exciting activities. In religious education, children have a very good understanding of Catholic Christianity and are continuing to develop their knowledge of other world religions. The school has been very successful in developing effective links with parents, support agencies and local businesses.

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

- The high-quality learning experiences in the nursery
- Extremely polite, well-behaved children who are very keen to learn
- The high-quality relationships between children, and between children and staff
- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher
- The commitment to and effective roles played by the principal teacher and all staff in improving the school

4.4 The head teacher provides outstanding leadership. He has a clear vision for the future direction of the school, which he has shared with children, staff and parents. The head teacher is highly respected by staff, children, parents and the wider community. The principal teacher leads a number of key developments very effectively. As a result of the school's overall strength in leadership at all levels, the school has a very strong capacity to continue to improve and progress further in its pursuit of excellence for all children.

4.5 HMI identified the following as the areas for improvement:-

- Further increase the impact of the school's strong processes for self-evaluation on children's learning and achievement
- Continue to improve learning by using *Curriculum for Excellence*

4.6 These areas for improvement have been incorporated into the school's improvement plan. The plan will also address other areas for development identified in the Inspectors' report. Progress on the identified areas for improvement will be shared with parents.

4.7 HMI have intimated that they are confident that the school, with support from the education authority, will be able to take forward the areas for improvement and will make no more visits in connection with this report. This is a highly commendable report.

## **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.

**Larry Forde**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

14 February 2011

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- Raise educational attainment for all
- Increase involvement in lifelong learning
- Improve the lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Improve health and increase physical activity

### **Previous References**

None

### **List of Background Papers**

- HMle Report of 18 January 2011

### **Contact for Further Information**

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

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