

# Report

Report to: **Area Committee**  
Date of Meeting: **31 May 2023**  
Report by: **Executive Director (Education Resources)**

Subject: **Education Scotland Report - Cathkin Primary School and Nursery Class**

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the outcome of the inspection of Cathkin 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 Cathkin Primary School and Nursery Class be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. Cathkin Primary and Nursery Class were inspected in February 2023 as part of a national sample of primary 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 (school) / securing children's progress (nursery) 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 2 May 2023.

## 4. Finding of HM inspectors

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

### School

- ◆ Leadership of change
- ◆ Learning, teaching and assessment
- ◆ Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion
- ◆ Raising attainment and achievement

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

- ◆ The highly-effective leadership provided by the headteacher and senior leadership team. Together, they create a supportive, inclusive culture, recognised by the school community
- ◆ Across the establishment, all staff work very well together as a team. They engage well with professional learning and reflect on their practice. Well-considered, engaging approaches to learning and teaching are impacting positively on children's progress and achievement
- ◆ The whole school community have worked well to create an ethos of nurture and compassion, where children and adults feel valued and listened to. Wellbeing is central to the work of all staff across the school and nursery
- ◆ The quality of teamwork and nurturing approaches to support children's learning in supported classes. This is enhanced by staff skills and consistency in using a range of alternative communication aids to develop children's language and communication skills effectively. Tracking children's progress is a key strength

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

- ◆ In primary classes, continue to raise attainment across the curriculum, with a particular focus on writing
- ◆ In nursery, continue to improve the quality and use of observations of children's learning. Practitioners need to be able to demonstrate more effectively the progress children are making in their learning

4.4. As well as welcoming the strengths of the school, it should be noted that the areas for continued improvement have already been incorporated into the school's improvement plan and will be shared via the school's usual communication channels.

4.5. 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 school is in a strong position to be able to return to pre pandemic levels of attainment with a particular focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap.

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

Cathkin Primary School and Nursery Class, South Lanarkshire 02/05/23  
(education.gov.scot)

## 5. Employee Implications

5.1. None

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1. None

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

7.1. None

## **8. Other Implications**

8.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report which is provided for information only.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

9.2. The content of Education Scotland reports is shared with parents and discussed at Parent Council meetings.

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

16 May 2023

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Get it right for children and young people
- ◆ Improve health, care and wellbeing
- ◆ Promote economic growth and tackle disadvantage
- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable
- ◆ Achieve results through leadership, good governance and organisational effectiveness

## **Previous References**

- ◆ None

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Education Scotland Report of Cathkin Primary School and Nursery Class - 2 May 2023

## **Contact for Further Information**

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

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