

Report

Report to:	East Kilbride Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 September 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Scotland Report – Heathery Knowe 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 Heathery Knowe 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 Heathery Knowe Primary School and Nursery Class be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Heathery Knowe Primary School was inspected in January 2019 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 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 26 March 2019.

4. Findings of Education Scotland Inspectors

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

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

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

- ◆ The welcoming and supportive ethos that exists in both the nursery and the school and the strong emphasis on promoting nurture and respect for all
- ◆ In the three months since taking up her post, the headteacher has demonstrated strong leadership and provided clear direction. Following a long period of change in senior leadership, the headteacher has successfully created a cohesive staff team who are firmly focused on improving outcomes for children. Some of the initiatives aimed at improving aspects of the quality of the work of the school are at an early stage. However, there is clear evidence of their impact on children's confidence, their relationships with each other and their growing pride in their school
- ◆ The impact of professional learning opportunities, including implementing changes to the teaching of literacy, on improving children's attainment in spelling

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

- ◆ Improve the quality and consistency of learning and teaching across the nursery and primary stages. Develop through relevant professional development a shared understanding of the value of play based-pedagogy in both the nursery and the early primary stages
- ◆ Focus future professional learning in improving moderation activities through collaborative learning within the school and the cluster. Working in this way will build staff confidence in making professional judgements about children's achievement of a level. Similarly, improved analysis of data which will help staff plan timely appropriate interventions for children

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. Progress on the identified areas for improvement will be shared with parents.

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 local authority has informed parents about the school's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of its schools.

4.6 The new headteacher has already embraced with school staff how they will work together to build on the strengths and take forward the areas for improvement identified by the inspection team.

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)

26 August 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Raise educational achievement and attainment
- ◆ Increase involvement in lifelong learning
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Improve and maintain health and increase physical activity

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Education Scotland Report of 26 March 2019

Contact for Further Information

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

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