

Report

Report to:	East Kilbride Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 February 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Scotland Report – Halfmerke Primary School
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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 Halfmerke Primary School 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 Halfmerke Primary School be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Halfmerke Primary School was inspected in September 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 14 January 2020.

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. Education Scotland found that Halfmerke Primary School provides children and young people with good learning and teaching experiences, with the school values of "respect, honestly, trying our best, friendship and inclusion" evident in classes.

4.3. Inspectors commented positively on the environment of the campus shared with West Mains School and noted the role of the Headteacher and Principal Teacher in establishing an inclusive school.

- 4.4. Inspectors recognise the leadership team in leading aspects of school improvement at Halfmerke Primary School and noted the developments that are being established to further parental engagement.
- 4.5. The particular strengths of the school were identified as follows:-
- ◆ Friendly, well-mannered children who are keen to learn. They respond well to the opportunities they have to support school improvement
 - ◆ Strong, supportive teamwork evident across the school. Staff who demonstrate a willingness and commitment to improving the work of the school
 - ◆ Children are aware of the needs of others in meaningful ways through the school's approaches to inclusion
- 4.6. Education Scotland identified the following areas for continued improvement:-
- ◆ Together with staff, the headteacher needs to improve approaches to self-evaluation to ensure that new developments are monitored carefully and the impact is closely measured. Children, parents and partners need to be supported to have a stronger role in evaluating the work of the school
 - ◆ Raise children's attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school. In doing so, develop further approaches to assessment
 - ◆ The headteacher now needs to take a stronger strategic lead of the curriculum to ensure all children receive their full entitlement to a broad general education
 - ◆ Involve parents more in the life of the school. In doing so, ensure parents are better informed about their children's progress and how they can support their children's learning at home
- 4.7. These areas for improvement have been incorporated into the school's improvement plan with partnership working with and support from the Curriculum and Quality Improvement Service (CQIS) post inspection team to enable these priorities to be taken forward. 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 areas 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 The inspection report can also be accessed by clicking the following web link <https://education.gov.scot/media/mk0m3px1/halfmerkepsins140120.pdf>.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. None

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant sustainability issues in connection with the recommendations contained within this report.

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 are shared with parents and discussed at Parent Council meetings.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

27 January 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Get it right for children and young people
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ 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 14 January 2020

Contact for Further Information

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

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