

Report

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Report to:	Clydesdale Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	HMIe Report - Kirkfieldbank 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 Kirkfieldbank Primary School 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 Kirkfieldbank Primary School

3. Background

3.1. HMIe undertook an inspection of the quality of educational provision within Kirkfieldbank Primary School in May 2011.

3.2. The inspection team observed lessons; spoke with pupils, parents and staff. The report that was published tells you about the quality of education at the school and how children benefit from learning there.

4. Findings of HM Inspectors

4.1. Particular strengths of the school

- Polite, well behaved children who are keen to learn
- The quality of relationships between the children and all staff
- Staff teamwork
- Concern shown by staff for the care and welfare of all children

4.2. Children in the nursery are forming friendships with one another and developing independence. Across the primary stages almost all children are polite, motivated and keen to learn. They work well on tasks without close supervision. Staff should try and involve children more in talking about their learning and encourage them to have more responsibility for planning and improving their work.

4.3. In the nursery, the majority of children are developing co-ordination and balance playing outdoors. In the primary classes, children's confidence and sense of achievement is developed alongside their leadership skills and physical abilities. Almost all children in the nursery are making satisfactory progress in their development, with the majority exploring early writing and mathematics.

- 4.4 Across the primary stages, the school is showing a stable pattern of attainment in reading and mathematics. Most children listen carefully and respond confidently during discussions. They take pride in presenting their written work and write well for a range of purposes.
- 4.5 In mathematics, children can calculate quickly and explain clearly how they reach their answers. They have a good understanding of shape and an understanding of the strategies needed to solve a range of problems. They would benefit from more opportunities to apply these in real life situations and across the school need to make more use of information and communication technology (ICT) to develop mathematical abilities. Children are also achieving well in other areas such as German and Science and ecology.
- 4.6 In the nursery and primary classes, the school has begun revising its curriculum, taking account of *Curriculum for Excellence*. Most children are benefiting from topic work which builds on their interests and helps them make links across the curriculum. All children benefit from two hours of high quality physical education each week. Staff in the nursery provide an appropriate range of resources to suit the age of the children.
- 4.7 Staff know their children very well and are sensitive to their needs. The Support for Learning teacher works well with class teachers to provide advice and support for children with additional support needs. Support assistants provide very good support for children and staff. Staff need to improve aspects of record keeping and increase the pace of learning for some children.
- 4.8 The school works with a range of partners, including health professionals, to support children's learning. The Parent Council is strong and takes an active interest in the building of the new school. There is also an effective parent-teacher association which assists with fundraising. Parents have a positive view of the school and are keen to assist school improvement. Links with local businesses should be sought.
- 4.9 Children enjoy opportunities to be involved as leaders and the pupil council makes a valuable contribution to improving their school. The school has achieved a gold award for health promotion and children demonstrate knowledge of healthy lifestyles. Staff work well together as a team and are involved in school improvement groups and improving children's learning experiences through their work on the school improvement plan.
- 4.10 Children are friendly and polite and almost all are well behaved. The nursery has a welcoming ethos and all staff have very good relationships with children, who feel safe and valued. Children's achievements are celebrated and the school promotes and celebrates equality and diversity.
- 4.11 The head teacher, principal teacher and staff have a clear vision and the head teacher is very well supported by an able principal teacher who leads a number of key developments. Together with all staff they are beginning to develop the curriculum, taking account of Curriculum for Excellence.
- 4.12 Areas for improvement:-

- Continue to develop the curriculum taking account of *Curriculum for Excellence*.
- Continue to improve attainment especially in reading and writing and notably at P6/P7.
- Improve the record keeping for vulnerable children and those with additional support needs.

4.10 These areas for improvement have been incorporated into the school's improvement plan. Parents will be informed of the progress achieved in overtaking these points for action.

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.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment or consultation in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

1 September 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- 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

None

Contact for Further Information

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

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