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| Report to: | Clydesdale Area Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 16 November 2010 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Education Resources) |

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| Subject: | HMIe Report - Douglas 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 Douglas 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 Douglas Primary School and Nursery Class.

3. Background

3.1 HMIe undertook an inspection of the quality of educational provision within Douglas Primary School and Nursery Class in June 2010.

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.

3.3 The report by HM Inspectorate was published on 21 September 2010.

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 school community?
- Does the school have high expectations of all children?
- Does the school have a clear sense of direction?

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. An area identified for improvement is aspects of record keeping and increasing 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.
- 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 headteacher 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 HMle identified the following as the 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

4.13 These areas for improvement have been incorporated into an improvement action 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.

4.14 HMI have intimated that they are confident that the school, with support from the education authority, will be able to make the necessary improvements and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.

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 impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

25 October 2010

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 21 September 2010

Contact for Further Information

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

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