

Report

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Report to:	Clydesdale Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2017
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Education Scotland Report - Bent Primary School, Lesmahagow
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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 Bent Primary School, Lesmahagow by Education Scotland

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on Bent Primary School, Lesmahagow be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Bent Primary School was inspected in May 2016 as part of a national sample of primary education.

3.2. As part of the revised approach to inspection, Her Majesty's (HM) inspectors evaluated improvements in performance, learners' experiences, meeting learning needs, the curriculum, the school's processes for improvement through self evaluation and its capacity for improvement.

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, 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 23 August 2016.

4. Findings of HM Inspectors

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

- ◆ how well do children learn and achieve?
- ◆ how well does the school support children to develop and learn?
- ◆ how well does the school improve the quality of its work?
- ◆ the Curriculum
- ◆ improvements in performance

- 4.2. Education Scotland found that Bent Primary School provides children and young people with a very good environment where they feel happy and safe and are keen to learn. Across the school, staff support and nurture children very well. This has created an inclusive ethos, with pastoral care highlighted as being of very high quality.
- 4.3. Inspectors reported that there are very positive working relationships across the school and that, together with the leadership of the Headteacher, this has led to an increased commitment to school improvement. The Headteacher is highly regarded by the school community and provides clear direction for the school. Due to this very effective leadership, together with the teamwork of the staff and support from parents, the school is in a strong position to continue to improve.
- 4.4. The particular strengths of the school were identified as follows:-
- ◆ positive nurturing relationships across the school established by the Headteacher and staff
 - ◆ well behaved happy children who were keen to learn
 - ◆ effective teamwork amongst staff
 - ◆ high quality additional support plans
 - ◆ experience of a residential trip for older pupils
- 4.5. Education Scotland identified the following areas for continued improvement:-
- ◆ continue to improve the curriculum and ensure challenge and progression across learning
 - ◆ continue to focus school improvement on raising children's attainment and achievement
 - ◆ continue to offer opportunities for children to take responsibility for their own learning
 - ◆ continue to improve tracking and monitoring across the school
- 4.6. These areas for improvement have been incorporated into the school's improvement 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.
- 4.7. Education Scotland has 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.

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)

7 February 2017

Link(s) to Council Values/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, Bent Primary School, Lesmahagow dated 23 August 2016

Contact for Further Information

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

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