

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Hamilton Area Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>17 November 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>HMIe Report - St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton</b>
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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 St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton by HMIe Inspectors.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) to note the HMIe Report on St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton.

## 3. Background

3.1. St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton was inspected in April 2010 as part of a national sample of primary education.

3.2. 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, including the pupil council and staff. Members of the inspection team also met the chairperson of the parent council and a group of parents.

3.4. The report by HM Inspectorate was published on 22 June 2010.

## 4. Findings of HM Inspectors

4.1. HMIe made comment under the following headings:

- Particular strengths of the school
- Examples of good practice
- 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 their school community?
- Does the school have high expectations of all children?
- Does the school have a clear sense of direction?

4.2 HM Inspectors found that St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton provided pupils with a very good quality of education. The school had maintained high levels of achievement over a number of years and children were focused and motivated to learn. HM Inspectors found that children enjoy a broad curriculum which develops their skills well and that staff had made good progress in implementing *Curriculum for Excellence*. Through a wide range of out-of-class activities the school enables children to broaden their learning and achievement. The school has strong partnerships with parents. The Parent Council is active in supporting the work of the school in a range of ways. The school has also been successful in developing partnerships with support agencies and businesses to enhance learning.

4.3 The particular strengths of the school were identified as follows:

- Happy, confident, and well-behaved children.
- Children's achievements, including high levels of attainment in English language and mathematics.
- Very positive relationships between all members of the school community.
- Staff teamwork and their high level of commitment to improving learning.
- Leadership of the headteacher.

4.4 The head teacher of the school provides very effective leadership. All staff work very well alongside the head teacher, depute and principal teachers, carrying out a range of leadership roles to improve the school. There is a strong sense of teamwork among staff. They work well together in a professional and personally supportive manner. They meet regularly to discuss how to improve the work of the school and are willing to take forward new initiatives. The school is well placed to improve further.

4.5 HMI identified the following as the areas for improvement:

- Continue to develop the curriculum, taking account of *Curriculum for Excellence* and the principles of personalisation and choice and relevance.
- Continue to increase children's ownership of their learning.

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 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 assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

**Larry Forde**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

25 October 2010

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

- 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 22 June 2010

### **Contact for Further Information**

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

Isobel MacDougall, Head of Education (Hamilton Area)

Tel: 01698 454468

E-mail: Isobel.MacDougall@southlanarkshire.gov.uk