

Report

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

Subject:	HMIe Report - St John's Primary School, Blackwood
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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 John's Primary School, Blackwood 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 John's Primary School, Blackwood.

3. Background

3.1 St John's Primary School, Blackwood was inspected in May 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 parents and members of the local community.

3.4 The report by HM Inspectorate was published on 24 August 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 John's Primary School, Blackwood provided pupils with a very good quality of education. Almost all children achieve appropriate national levels of attainment in reading and mathematics and are enthusiastic and well-

motivated learners. HM Inspectors found that children take part in a broad range of sporting, art and community activities and that staff make good use of the outdoor environment to enhance learning. The school has made very good progress in implementing aspects of *Curriculum for Excellence* and has been very successful in developing effective links with parents, support agencies and local businesses.

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

- Well-behaved, polite and friendly children who are keen to learn
- Staff teamwork leading to improvements in the school
- High-quality artwork
- Partnerships with parents, agencies and the wider community which have improved learning
- Leadership of the headteacher

4.4 The head teacher of the school provides highly effective leadership. She has a clear vision for the future direction of the school, which she has shared with children, staff and parents. The head teacher is highly respected by staff, children, parents and the wider community. Across the school, staff take opportunities for leadership roles to improve learning. They are committed to taking the school forward and work very well as a team. The school is well placed to improve further.

4.5 HMI identified the following as the areas for improvement:-

- Ensure that tasks and activities across the curriculum meet the needs of all children
- Continue to support children to identify their next steps in learning and to take greater responsibility for their own 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

- 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 24 August 2010

Contact for Further Information

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

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