Inspection of Lawfield Primary School and Nursery Class

Report by Donald S MacKay, Director, Education and Communities

1 Introduction

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by HM Inspectorate of Education in September 2009.

2 Background

Lawfield Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected in September 2009 as part of a national sample of secondary, primary and nursery education. The report was published on 3 November 2009 and has been distributed to all Elected Members and Church Representatives on the Cabinet for their information. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages.

Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing. Noted below are the evaluations for Lawfield Primary School and Nursery Class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nursery Class</th>
<th>Primary School</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvements in performance</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learners’ experience</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting learning needs</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HMIE also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the school and the nursery class:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The curriculum</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvements through self-evaluation</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following particular strengths were indicated by the inspection team:

- The welcoming, caring environment and the relationships and teamwork among staff.
- Support for children with additional needs, including partnership working with other agencies.
- Children’s learning experiences in music.
- The headteacher’s leadership during a period of significant change.
The following areas for improvement were agreed between HMIE, the school and the Education and Communities Division:

- Continue to develop children’s skills in talking and listening.
- Engage children more fully in their learning by providing them with stimulating and challenging tasks and clear feedback on how to improve their work.
- Develop children’s skills for independent learning and involve them more meaningfully in setting their own learning targets.
- Evaluate and improve the work of the nursery in order meet the needs of all children effectively.

3 Conclusion

HMIE have indicated that they are confident that the school will be able to make the necessary improvements in the light of the inspection findings. As a result, they will make no more visits in respect of this inspection. The school and the Education and Communities Division have been asked to inform parents about the school’s progress in improving the quality of education.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

There are no financial and human resource implications associated with this report.

4.2 Risk

HMIE visit a sample of primary and secondary schools every year to find out how they are performing. A report is published which informs parents about the key strengths of the school, its capacity for further improvement and sets out the main points for action.

Following the publication of that report further visits may be made to the school, either by HMIE or by the Education Authority to assist improvement and monitor progress. A follow-through report on the progress of the school is published by either HMIE or by the Education Authority, normally within 2 years of the date of publication of the original report.

Monitoring, review and evaluation of progress by Education Officers in the Quality Improvement Team is the control measure in place to reduce the risk of failure of the school to demonstrate its capacity to improve.
4.3 Policy

Strategy

The school will continue to improve its work in line with its improvement plan and the Quality Improvement Team will continue to challenge and support the school in relation to developing and implementing a range of quality improvement strategies.

Consultation

Copies of the report have been made available to Elected Members, parents of children currently in the school and other interested parties.

Equalities

The School Improvement Plan will be screened for equalities implications.

Sustainability

The School Improvement Plan allows for sustainable development and improvement.

5 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

(i) note the content of the inspection report;

(ii) pass this report to the Performance, Scrutiny and Audit Committee for its consideration and;

(iii) congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with Lawfield Primary School and Nursery Class on the key strengths highlighted in the report;

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