

Education, Children and Families Committee

Sub-committee on Standards for Children and Families

2.30 pm, Monday, 13 June 2016

Primary School Try Out Inspection at St Mary's RC Primary School

Item number	5.2
Report number	
Wards	Ward 5: Inverleith Ward 6: Corstorphine/Murrayfield Ward 11: City Centre Ward 12: Leith Walk Ward 15: Southside/Newington

Links

Coalition pledges	PO5
Council outcomes	CO2
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

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Executive summary

Primary School Try Out Inspection at St Mary's RC Primary School

Summary

- Members should be aware that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) now known as Education Scotland are undertaking a review of their inspection process and are trying out a range of new approaches to inspection in a small number of schools, and other establishments and services this session.
- This review will ensure that education inspection approaches reflect this changing environment and continue to make a positive contribution to improvements in the performance of educational establishments and services.
- St Mary's RC Primary School was selected to be involved in a new inspection approach. This involved them having a two and a half day inspection with only a two day notification period. The focus of the inspection was on learning, teaching and assessment and the school received a shorter report letter and no evaluations.
- Inspectors usually revisit a school within a year of the publication of the letter where weak or unsatisfactory practice has been identified. For all other schools inspected the local authority will inform the parents about the progress made in improving the quality of education.
- This letter (Appendix 1) advises the Sub-committee on the outcomes of the initial inspection.

Recommendations

The Sub-committee is requested to:

- note the findings of the report including the areas where the education authority and the school should continue to improve the school; and
- receive an authority inspection follow through report within two years of the publication of the inspection letter.

Measures of success

The report identified the following key strengths:

- respectful, well-mannered children who enjoy learning and are proud of their school;
- the warm and welcoming environment achieved through effective and positive relationships amongst children, staff and parents; and
- the teamwork of all staff, parents and partners to provide varied learning experiences and opportunities for children.

Financial impact

There are no financial implications contained in the ES report.

Equalities impact

There are considered to be no infringements of the rights of the child.

Tracking of pupil performance by gender and Black Minority Ethnic (BME) is undertaken at school level and there are no adverse impacts.

Sustainability impact

None.

Consultation and engagement

Parents, pupils and staff completed an ES questionnaire prior to the inspection.

Background reading / external references

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports>

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Appendices	1. Inspection letter to parent/carers

1 March 2016

Dear Parent/carer

**St Mary's RC Primary School
The City of Edinburgh Council**

We are trying out some new approaches to inspection. You can find more information about why we are doing this, and details of our new approaches, at the link below¹.

St Mary's RC Primary School was inspected in December 2015. A team of inspectors visited your school for two and a half days, following a two-day notification period. During our visit, we talked to children and worked with the headteacher and staff. We looked at teaching, learning and assessment, and at how the school is working to raise the attainment of all children.

The inspection team found the following strengths:

- Respectful, well-mannered children who enjoy learning and are proud of their school.
- The warm and welcoming environment achieved through effective and positive relationships amongst children, staff and parents.
- The teamwork of all staff, parents and partners to provide varied learning experiences and opportunities for children.

The following areas for improvement were also identified and discussed with the headteacher and Edinburgh City Council.

- Ensure a consistently high quality of learning and teaching across the school to raise attainment for all children.
- Continue to develop and refresh the curriculum to ensure children make appropriate progress in all areas, and to provide children with relevant and coherent learning experiences.
- Continue to build on the school's approaches to evaluating its own work to ensure this leads consistently to improvements in children's experiences and achievements.

¹ <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/about/principles/futureapproaches/index.asp>

What happens next?

We are confident that the school, supported by The City of Edinburgh Council and Education Scotland's Area Lead Officer, has the capacity to continue to improve and we will make no further visits in relation to this inspection. As part of its arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of education, The City of Edinburgh Council will inform parents about the school's progress.

Susan Duff
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.