

Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families

2.00pm, Tuesday, 5 December 2017

Primary School Inspection at Blackhall Primary School

5.1

Item number	5.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

Education Scotland (ES), undertake an annual sample of inspections across Scotland (approximately 240 per year) covering nursery, primary, special and secondary schools. A letter to parents/carers on each inspection is published approximately three months after the inspection. On the basis of this letter the school with the support of the authority amends its improvement plan to take account of any agreed areas for improvement.

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 and evaluations (Appendix 1) and the Summary of Inspection Findings (Appendix 2) advises the Sub-committee on the outcomes of the initial inspection

Primary School Inspection at Blackhall Primary School

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee is requested to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the findings of the report including the areas where the education authority and the school should continue to improve the school; and
 - 1.1.2 Receive an authority inspection follow through report within two years of the publication of the inspection letter.

2. Background

- 2.1 A team of Inspectors from Education Scotland made a visit to the school in August 2017. This report details their main findings and the progress of the school and authority to make improvements in line with the recommendations.

3. Main report

Progress to date includes:

- 3.1 The Quality Improvement Education Officer (QIEO) continues to support the Acting Head Teacher, due to the secondment of the Head Teacher as a QIEO.
 - 3.1.1 The QIEO and Acting Head Teacher have created an action plan based on the inspection findings and are making good progress.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Articulate, confident and happy children who thrive in the nurturing environment provided by staff. Children are enthusiastic, motivated and respond well to opportunities provided by the school.
 - 4.1.1 The effective leadership of the acting headteacher, together with the teamwork of the enthusiastic staff in securing school improvement and positive outcomes for children.

- 4.1.2 The strong partnerships with parents, partners and the wider community to create an enriching learning environment for children.
- 4.1.3 The inclusive approach in how the school promotes children's wellbeing, rights and resilience.
- 4.1.4 Recently-introduced approaches to the development of literacy skills.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no financial implications contained in the ES letter.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 None.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are considered to be no infringements of the rights of the child.
- 7.2 Tracking of pupil performance by gender and Black Minority Ethnic (BME) is undertaken at school level and there are no adverse impacts.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 None.

9. Consultation and engagement

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

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 <https://education.gov.scot/what-we-do/inspection-and-review/reports>

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director for Communities and Families

Contact: Lynn Paterson, Quality Improvement Education Manager

E-mail: lynn.paterson@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3131

11. Appendices

1. Summary of Inspection Findings

22 August 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Blackhall Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Articulate, confident and happy children who thrive in the nurturing environment provided by staff. Children are enthusiastic, motivated and respond well to opportunities provided by the school.
- The effective leadership of the acting headteacher, together with the teamwork of the enthusiastic staff in securing school improvement and positive outcomes for children.
- The strong partnerships with parents, partners and the wider community to create an enriching learning environment for children.
- The inclusive approach in how the school promotes children's wellbeing, rights and resilience.
- Recently-introduced approaches to the development of literacy skills.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The City of Edinburgh Council:

- As planned, the school should continue to develop a clear rationale for the curriculum based on the unique context of the school.
- Continue to develop approaches to assessing, monitoring and tracking of children's progress in order to improve pace and challenge in children's learning.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*¹? 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.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Blackhall Primary School

Leadership of Change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at; <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/edinburgh-city/5521122>

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The City of Edinburgh Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Alan Urquhart
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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The Complaints Manager

Education Scotland

Denholm House
Almondvale Business Park
Almondvale Way
Livingston EH54 6GA

T +44 (0)131 244 4330
E enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk

www.educationscotland.gov.scot

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