

Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families

2.00pm, Tuesday, 5 December 2017

Primary School Inspection at Craigour Park Primary School

Item number	5.2
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 Craigour Park 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 May 2016. 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 Quality Improvement Education Officer (QIEO) working with the school leadership team to create an action plan based on the inspection findings.
 - 3.1.1 School leadership team are visiting other establishments to see best practice and how it might work in their setting e.g. tracking and monitoring
 - 3.1.2 Depute Head Teacher (DHT) working alongside another senior leadership team to develop leadership capacity.
 - 3.1.3 QIEO working with the school to support and monitor the progress of their action plan, including attending appropriate professional learning opportunities.

4. Measures of success

The report identified the following key strengths:

- 4.1 Confident and well-behaved children who show a great pride in their school. Across the nursery and primary classes, children enjoy their learning in a calm and caring environment. They respond well to the increasing opportunities for their voice to be heard through, for example, the Pupil Parliament.
 - 4.1.1 The quality of pastoral care provided by staff. There is a unique ethos of wellbeing and inclusion within the school which has been developed very effectively over time by the leadership of the headteacher.
 - 4.1.2 Partnership working with parents. The school involves parents in their children's learning at every opportunity. Staff ensure that parents are aware of what children are learning at school through, for example, children's Learning Journals.

5. Financial impact

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

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 Education Scotland 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

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11. Appendices

1. Education Scotland letter to parents

28 March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In January a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Craigour Park Primary School and nursery class. 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:

- Confident and well-behaved children who show a great pride in their school. Across the nursery and primary classes, children enjoy their learning in a calm and caring environment. They respond well to the increasing opportunities for their voice to be heard through, for example, the Pupil Parliament.
- The quality of pastoral care provided by staff. There is a unique ethos of wellbeing and inclusion within the school which has been developed very effectively over time by the leadership of the headteacher.
- Partnership working with parents. The school involves parents in their children's learning at every opportunity. Staff ensure that parents are aware of what children are learning at school through, for example, children's Learning Journals.

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

- The headteacher is well-respected in the school community and her commitment to the school is clear. She has shown success in developing leadership at all levels with all staff being involved in school improvement. In order to maximise the potential of school development she should clarify the strategic remits of the leadership roles within the school.
- Building on best practice already in the school, staff should ensure a greater consistency to approaches to teaching and learning across all stages.
- Staff should further develop more effective approaches to tracking and monitoring children's progress to be clearer about how they raise children's attainment. The school currently has a wide range of data on children's progress and attainment and now needs to show more rigour in how it uses this data to close the attainment gap.
- The school is at the early stages of developing a clear vision for the curriculum. Staff should continue to improve the curriculum to ensure the learning needs and entitlements of all children are met.

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? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*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 Craigour Park Primary School

Primary stages

Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory

Nursery class

Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/reports/edinburgh-city/5520223>.

¹ *How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

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

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