

Sub-committee on Standards for Children and Families

2.00pm, Tuesday, 5 December 2017

Primary School Inspection at St Cuthbert's Primary School

Item number	5.4
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 St Cuthbert's 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 June 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 Support and challenge meetings with the Head Teacher to create an action plan to reflect the inspection findings and monitor progress
 - 3.1.1 Regular observations of learning and teaching to sustain and monitor the quality of experiences for children.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The effectiveness of the headteacher's leadership and her success in continuously improving outcomes for children.
 - 4.1.1 Shared leadership amongst the staff team and their skills in motivating children in their learning. The children are enthusiastic, polite and confident and take pride in their achievements.
 - 4.1.2 The focus on inclusion and positive relationships founded on mutual respect and shared values.

The quality of children’s attainment in literacy and English and their wider achievements.

The personalised support provided to children enabling them to succeed.

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 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

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11. Appendices

1. ES letter to parents

6 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Cuthbert's RC Primary School and Language and Communication Classes. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children 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:

- The effectiveness of the headteacher's leadership and her success in continuously improving outcomes for children.
- Shared leadership amongst the staff team and their skills in motivating children in their learning. The children are enthusiastic, polite and confident and take pride in their achievements.
- The focus on inclusion and positive relationships founded on mutual respect and shared values.
- The quality of children's attainment in literacy and English and their wider achievements.
- The personalised support provided to children enabling them to succeed.

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

- Develop a framework of assessment to support teacher's professional judgements.
- Continue to develop the rigour in the school's approaches to self-evaluation leading to raising attainment further.

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 St Cuthbert's RC 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/5529328>.

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.

Susan Gow
HM Inspector

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

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