

Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families

2.00pm, Tuesday, 5 December 2017

Primary School Inspection at St John Vianney RC Primary School

Item number	5.5
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 John Vianney RC 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 April 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 New Acting Head Teacher now in post
 - 3.1.1 Clear action plan in place to reflect the recommendations in the initial Inspection report
 - 3.1.2 Fortnightly meetings with QIEO and QIM to monitor progress and share next steps
 - 3.1.3 QIEO has shared learning and teaching observations with the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher
 - 3.1.4 QIEO has led professional learning sessions for staff
 - 3.1.5 Peer support has been arranged for the Acting Head Teacher

4. Measures of success

The report identified the following key strengths:

- 4.1 The headteacher, depute headteacher and staff have fostered a positive school ethos in the school and nursery. Staff support the work of the school and are willing to take shared leadership roles.

The confident, happy and welcoming children who take pride in their learning.

The readiness of staff to develop their practices and improve experiences for children.

Children's achievements in expressive arts.

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

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11. Appendices

1. Summary of Inspection Findings

18 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In February a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St John Vianney RC 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 success and achievements.

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

- The headteacher, depute headteacher and staff have fostered a positive school ethos in the school and nursery. Staff support the work of the school and are willing to take shared leadership roles.
- The confident, happy and welcoming children who take pride in their learning.
- The readiness of staff to develop their practices and improve experiences for children.
- Children's achievements in expressive arts.

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

- Improve the strategic leadership of continuous improvement and ensure staff, parents, partners and children are fully involved in evaluating the work of the school and nursery effectively.
- Improve consistency in high quality learning and teaching and the effectiveness of assessment leading to raising attainment and achievement for all children.
- Improve children's achievements in health and wellbeing and promote equalities.

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 St John Vianney RC Primary School

Primary stages

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

Nursery class

Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
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/5529824>.

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 will liaise with The City of Edinburgh Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of publication of this letter. We will discuss with The City of Edinburgh Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Susan Gow
HM Inspector

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