

Education, Children and Families Committee

Sub-committee on Standards for Children and Families

2.30 pm, Monday, 9 March 2015

Secondary School – Castlebrae Community High School

Item number	6.1
Report number	
Wards	Ward 15: Southside/Newington Ward 16: Liberton/Gilmerton Ward 17: Portobello/Craigmillar

Links

Coalition pledges	PO5
Council outcomes	CO2
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

Gillian Tee

Director of Children and Families

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Executive summary

Secondary School - Castlebrae Community High School

Summary

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), now known as Education Scotland (ES) changed the procedures for inspecting educational establishments as from August 2008. These new procedures also include changes to the follow-through arrangements carried out one or two years after the publication of the inspection report. ES will only return to schools where the inspection report was less than satisfactory. Inspectors will carry out this return visit within one year of the original inspection and will publish a follow-through report.
- In all other instances the responsibility for following up the original inspection will lie with the local authority and authority officers will produce the follow-through report.
- The purpose of the follow-through report is to provide information to parents on the continuous improvement in the school including any area identified for improvement.
- This report advises the Sub-committee of the outcomes of the follow-through visit. ES undertook the responsibility for this follow-through and produced this report (Appendix 1).

Recommendations

- Note the progress made to date from the original inspection in January 2011.
- A further inspection visit will take place no later than 30 November 2015.

Measures of success

- A further inspection visit will take place no later than 30 November 2015.

Financial impact

There are no financial implications contained in the follow through 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

Parent, staff and pupil discussions took place during the follow through.

Background reading / external references

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/905/schools-management-and-inspection/1090/school follow through and review reports](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/905/schools-management-and-inspection/1090/school-follow-through-and-review-reports)

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

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Links

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Appendices	1.	Letter – Castlebrae Community High School dated January 2015
	2.	Overall evaluations from 2011 report

13 January 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

**Castlebrae Community High School
The City of Edinburgh Council**

In March 2011 HM Inspectors published a report on your child's school. We subsequently returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve its work and published a letter to parents in April 2012. In October 2012, the City of Edinburgh Council announced the consultation on a proposal to close the school. The timescale of the consultation meant we had to delay our planned return to the school. We visited the school again in May 2013 and subsequently published another letter to parents in August 2013. Since then, the school has continued to experience significant changes in staffing, including at senior levels. In August 2014, a new headteacher took up post in an acting capacity and there continue to be further staffing changes in the senior management team.

Education Scotland's Area Lead Officer visited the school in October 2014 to observe learning and teaching and discuss progress with school staff and an officer of the City of Edinburgh Council. The acting headteacher has already made a number of changes designed to improve young people's learning experiences and attainment. However, staff are aware that much work remains to be done to address the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection and on subsequent visits to the school.

We recognise that the new school management team needs time to work with teachers and other staff on these areas for improvement. As a result, we intend to postpone the further inspection visit to the school which was planned for January 2015. In the interim, we shall work with the City of Edinburgh Council in supporting the school to continue to improve. The City of Edinburgh Council will ensure that parents are kept informed of progress. We shall confirm a further inspection visit at a later date. This further visit will take place no later than 30 November 2015.

Jane Renton
Assistant Director

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 0141 282 5000, 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.

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 HMIE publication *How good is our school?*. 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 the evaluations for Castlebrae Community High School.

Improvements in performance	Weak
Learners' experiences	Satisfactory
Meeting learning needs	Weak

We also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the school.

The curriculum	Satisfactory
Improvement through self-evaluation	Weak

HM Inspector: Alistair Kirkwood
15 March 2011