

## **REPORT TO FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE – 9 JUNE 2015**

### **EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION, NEWBURGH MATHERS PRIMARY NURSERY SCHOOL**

#### **1 Recommendations**

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- (i) Consider and comment on the contents of this report,**
- (ii) Endorse the Service's continuing efforts in support of its schools in the Education Scotland inspection process and in the raising of standards of attainment and achievement in all aspects of school life, and**
- (iii) Agree to further reports on Education Scotland school inspections being presented.**

#### **2 Background/Discussion**

- 2.1 Newburgh Mathers School was inspected in January 2014 as part of a national sample of primary education.
- 2.2 A number of key strengths were identified and recommendations were outlined to be taken forward.
- 2.3 At this inspection Education Scotland advised that they would revisit the school within a year of the report being published.
- 2.4 An updated school improvement plan to address the priorities was agreed with staff.
- 2.5 The Head Teacher resigned at the end of session 2013-14 and an acting Head Teacher was appointed in August 2014.
- 2.6 The acting Head Teacher worked closely with the Quality Improvement Team to implement the recommendations of the inspection report and evidence improvement through self-evaluation.
- 2.7 In December 2014 the acting Head Teacher was appointed to the permanent post.
- 2.8 The follow through inspection in March 2015 highlighted the progress that the school has made and reported that:
  - More children now experience learning that is of better quality.
  - An increasing number of children talk about their learning and know what to do to improve further.

- More children are making consistent progress, especially in literacy.
  - Children with additional support needs are appropriately supported.
  - Children are beginning to be more meaningfully involved in planning and in contributing to the life of their school and their learning.
  - The school is well led and the Head Teacher has established effective working relationships with the school community.
  - Staff fully participate in evaluating what the school does well and what needs to be done to improve.
- 2.9 The Head Teacher and staff continue to work closely on improvement priorities to ensure that what has been achieved is maintained and that further progress is evidenced and the impact for learners evaluated.
- 2.10 A further inspection will be carried out within eighteen months as the Head Teacher is relatively new in post, after which another letter will be issued to parents on the extent to which the school has made further improvements.
- 2.11 The Head of Finance and the Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted and have no comments.

### **3 Staffing and Financial Implications**

- 3.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommended actions will not have a differential impact on people with protected characteristics.
- 3.2 There are no staffing, financial or policy implications arising directly from this report. It is intended that any costs will be met from existing budgets.

**Maria Walker**  
**Director of Education & Children's Services**

Report prepared by Sinéad Lindsay Head Teacher and Moira Lawson, Quality Improvement Officer.