

REPORT TO FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE – 9 JUNE 2015

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION, MARKETHILL PRIMARY AND 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 Markethill School was inspected in February 2014 as part of a national sample of primary education. The report was published in April 2014.
- 2.2 At this inspection Education Scotland advised that they would revisit the school within a year of publication of the report.
- 2.3 A number of key strengths and recommendations were identified to be taken forward.
- 2.4 An updated school improvement plan to address the priorities was agreed with the Head Teacher and staff with support from the Authority Officers.
- 2.5 The Senior Management Team has worked closely with staff and the School Improvement Officer to review practice and improve approaches to learning and teaching.
- 2.6 The follow through inspection in March 2015 recognised that improvements outlined in the report had been achieved during a period of significant staff changes and ongoing recruitment issues. Depute Head Teachers have been teaching full-time and the Head Teacher has also covered classes.
- 2.7 The inspection highlighted the progress that the school has made and reported that:
 - Children continue to take pride in their school.

- Children in Nursery and Pupil Support Unit continue to achieve well and their experiences have improved even further since the original inspection.
 - Across the primary classes, children's learning and achievements are now of a higher standard than before.
 - In almost all classes, children are now more involved in planning and evaluating aspects of their own learning.
 - Children are now taking on more roles and responsibilities around the school.
 - Children continue to develop strong links with their local community.
 - Children are making better progress in their learning as a result of improved approaches to learning and teaching.
 - The school's approach to meeting children's learning needs has improved and is now of a more consistently high quality across the nursery, Pupil Support Unit and classes.
 - The school has developed a much clearer sense of purpose and direction. Staff are now a more reflective team and show a more accurate awareness of the needs of the school.
 - Parents have been consulted about school developments and most are supportive of what the school is trying to achieve.
 - The Parent Council has played a valuable role in supporting the school over the year.
- 2.8 Improvement priorities identified in the report are being addressed by the senior management team and staff, with the continued support of Aberdeenshire Council to ensure that improvements achieved can be sustained and recommendations progressed.
- 2.9 A further inspection will be carried out within eighteen months, after which another letter will be issued to parents on the extent to which the school has made further improvements.
- 2.10 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.

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