

REPORT TO MARR AREA COMMITTEE - TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2016

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION: CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT RECORD OF VISIT TO FINZEAN SCHOOL AND BALLOGIE NURSERY CLASS

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and comment on the contents of this report;
- 1.2 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
- 1.3 Agree to further reports on Education Scotland school inspections being presented.

2 Background/Discussion

- 2.1 Finzean School was re-inspected on 20th and 21st January 2016 as part of the continuing engagement following the school inspection the previous year.

Areas of improvement from original letter –

How well do children learn and achieve?

- In nursery class, children continue to make good progress in their learning
- There is a more positive learning climate across the school
- Children's behaviour and attitude to their learning have improved significantly
- Children enjoy more respectful relationships with peers and teachers
- Pupils are now clearer about the purpose of lessons, what they do well and what they need to do to be successful
- Pupils are more involved in shaping the direction of their own learning
- The 'aiming high' booklets are supporting children writing their own targets and parents are able to contribute to these
- Increased opportunities for pupils in leadership and in shaping school life. The school provides a number of clubs for children and now has a system in place to track children's wider achievements

How well does the school support children to develop and learn?

- Tasks and activities better meet the needs of children in classes
- All staff now have a more accurate picture of how children are progressing
- Learning support is delivered more effectively to meet the needs of children
- Individual learning plans have been reviewed and refreshed
- High quality professional learning activities for all staff
- Staff regularly discuss each child's progress with the head teacher
- Numeracy and Literacy progressions in place

- In the nursery class, children enthusiastically shared their learning about the impact of the recent floods in the local area.
- At the primary stages, children have a greater role in designing the content and context of their cross curricular topics.

How well does the school improve the quality of its work?

- Significant changes in staff throughout the last year but now permanent staff in each class
- Effective arrangements to identify the school's strengths and the areas requiring improvement.
- All staff demonstrate their commitment to improving the school.

2.2 The continuing engagement visit evaluated key aspects of the work of the school at all stages including:-

- Pupils' learning and achievements
- The curriculum and meeting learning needs
- How well staff work with others to support young people's learning
- The extent to which staff and young people are actively involved in improving their school community
- Expectations of all young people
- The direction of the school.

2.3 As a result of the continuing engagement visit, the Inspectors highlighted the following developments in practice at Finzean School;

- There is a more consistent approach to teaching and raising standards
- Improved behavior
- Pupils beginning to have responsibility for their learning
- A new head teacher has taken up post since our last inspection providing very strong and supportive leadership to staff

2.4 The Inspectors also identified areas where they felt the school should focus in order to improve the quality of education. These were:

- Continue to improve attainment
- Continue to develop the curriculum further
- There is scope for the head teacher to continue to involve the whole school community in having a greater role in improving the work of the school

2.5 The Head Teacher will provide parents/carers with an update on progress in the implementation of the plan as part of its annual standards and quality reporting arrangements.

2.6 HMIe will ask Aberdeenshire Council to provide them with a progress report within a year and decide at that point whether a further inspection is required.

2.7 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and any comments received have been incorporated within the report.

3 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 3.1 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 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and have no observations to make
- 3.2 An equality impact assessment is not required as the report will not have a differential impact on any of the protected groups.

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