



REPORT TO GARIOCH AREA COMMITTEE – 21 JUNE 2016

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION, WESTHILL SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS

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 Westhill School and Nursery was inspected in January 2016 as part of a national sample of primary / nursery education.

2.2 The school inspection 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 inspection, the Inspectors highlighted the following key strengths of Westhill School;

- Confident, very well-behaved children who are keen to learn and show a great pride in their school.
- Team work of staff in creating a nurturing ethos based on the school values.
- Children's learning experiences including enterprising approaches to learning.
- Leadership of the headteacher in embedding positive relationships across the school community.

2.4 The inspection model is based on the school's own self-evaluation, and how this is used to focus on improving outcomes for young people, in line with Curriculum for Excellence. Over the course of the inspection process, the inspectors arrive at their own overall evaluations for the school in relation to five core Quality Indicators. In Westhill School, the inspector's evaluation was as follows:

Westhill School: Core Quality Indicators Evaluations

Improvements in performance	Good
Learners' experiences	Very Good
Meeting learning needs	Good
The curriculum	Good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Good

Nursery class

Improvements in performance	Satisfactory
Childrens' experiences	Good
Meeting learning needs	Satisfactory

Westhill School: Care Inspectorate Gradings

Quality of care and support	Good
Quality of environment	Good
Quality of staffing	Good
Quality of management and leadership	adequate

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

- Ensure all children are challenged consistently well in their learning.
- Continue to review and refresh the curriculum to ensure the needs of children are met consistently well.
- Build on approaches to self-evaluation to ensure continuous improvement with a clearer focus on the nursery.

2.6 The School, in consultation with the Quality Improvement Officer, has prepared an action plan to address these areas for improvement.

2.7 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.

2.8 As a result of the good quality of education provided by the school, no further visits in connection with this inspection will be made by HM Inspectors.

2.9 The Head of Finance and the Monitoring Officer within Business Services 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 and Children's Services