



REPORT TO FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION – NEWBURGH MATHERS PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and comment on the contents of the 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 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 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 indicated and recommendations were outlined to be taken forward.
- 2.3 Education Scotland inspectors revisited the school in March 2015 and again in November 2016.
- 2.4 The Head Teacher worked closely with the Quality Improvement Team to implement the recommendations of the inspection reports and evidence improvement through self-evaluation.
- 2.5 The follow-through inspection in November 2016 evaluated aspects of the school's work, which had been identified for improvement in March 2015:
 - Continue to raise standards of learning and teaching across the school and nursery in order to raise attainment.
 - Continue to develop the curriculum to ensure children can improve their skills and have the right amount of challenge.
 - Ensure all involved in the life of the school are fully engaged in taking forward and, where appropriate, leading improvement in the school and nursery.

- 2.6 The November 2016 inspection highlighted the progress that the school has made and reported that:
- Children experience learning that is of good quality. They are now more engaged in and motivated towards their learning.
 - Children confidently describe what they do well and what they need to do to improve.
 - Staff are more confident planning tasks to match children's abilities.
 - More children are making consistent progress with their learning.
 - Children with additional support needs are well supported and staff provide good quality support in and out of class.
 - Parents are more openly involved in supporting their children's learning and learning is shared more regularly.
 - The whole school community is more involved in evaluating what it does well and what it needs to do to improve.
 - The Head Teacher has ably led the school community through a period of change, resulting in improved relationships, ethos and teamwork across the school community.
 - Education Scotland inspectors are confident in the school's ability to continue to improve, working with local authority officers, and therefore will make no further visits in relation to this inspection.
- 2.7 The Head Teacher and staff continue to work closely on identified improvement priorities to ensure what has been achieved is maintained and further improvement is evidenced.
- 2.8 The Head Teacher will provide parents/carers with an update on progress as part of its annual standards and quality reporting arrangements.
- 2.9 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Their comments are incorporated within the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as the content of the item impacts the Formartine Area.

4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report is to update and inform the committee and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

4.2 There are no staffing and financial implications.

Maria Walker
Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by:

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31st January 2017