



REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 27 June 2017

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION, NEW PITSLIGO & ST. JOHN'S 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 of Education Scotland school inspections being presented.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1** In April 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter outlining the findings of their visit to New Pitsligo & St. John's Primary.
- 2.2** During the visit, they talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the head teacher and staff. They gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's success and achievements.
- 2.3** As a result of the inspection, the Inspectors highlighted the following key strengths of New Pitsligo & St. John's School:

The leadership of the head teacher in securing improvement over time and in establishing

Good teamwork between enthusiastic staff, parents and the community.
The care and wellbeing of children in the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) centre and the positive start made to improvement due to the leadership of the lead practitioner.

The positive school ethos demonstrated by well-behaved, respectful children who are supportive of their peers. They enjoy learning and are proud of their school.

The school's success in including all children and supporting children with barriers to learning. In recent years there has been a sustained focus on continuing to improve attainment in literacy and numeracy.

- 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 core Quality Indicators. In New Pitsligo & St. John's School the inspector's evaluation in April 2017 was as follows:

New Pitsligo & St. John's Primary School: Core Quality Indicators Evaluations

Leadership of Change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

New Pitsligo & St. John's Nursery: Quality Indicators Evaluations

Leadership of Change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Satisfactory
Securing children's progress	Satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Satisfactory

- 2.5 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head teacher and a representative from Aberdeenshire Council:
- Improve and streamline the school's approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment across the ELC centre and school.
- Refresh the curriculum ensuring appropriate focus on progression in learning through the Curriculum for Excellence levels.
- Ensure the needs of all children are met through an increased focus on pace and challenge in learning across all classes.
- 2.6 The School will continue to address the areas for improvement from the inspection report.
- 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 The inspectors are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Aberdeenshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.
- 2.9 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated into the report.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and comment on this report in accordance with the scheme of Governance Section B 1.2.

4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

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

Maria Walker
Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by Helen James, Head Teacher, New Pitsligo & St. John's Primary and Nursery School.
Date 25th April 2017