

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 2019

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF CRIMOND SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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.
- 1.3 Agree to further reports of Education Scotland school inspections being presented.

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 In April 2019, Education Scotland published a letter outlining their findings of their visit to Crimond School and Nursery in February 2019.
- 2.2 During the visit, the Education Scotland inspection team talked to parents and carers, the young people and community members. They 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 in the work of Crimond School and Nursery.
 - The effective leadership of the headteacher, who strives to ensure that each child is nurtured and supported to achieve. She is successfully developing a culture of shared leadership across the nursery and school community.
 - Polite, well-mannered children who are proud of their nursery and school. They are helpful to one another and have positive attitudes to their learning.
 - The teamwork of staff across the nursery and school, which helps to create a welcoming, family ethos.
 - The valuable role of parents, families, partners and the wider community in supporting the work of the nursery and school. These supportive partnerships enhance children's learning experiences and provide rich opportunities for them to achieve success.
- 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 gathered evidence and constructed their own overall evaluations for the school in relation to core Quality Indicators taken from “How Good is Our School 4” and “How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare”. In Crimond School and Nursery the inspector’s evaluation in February 2019 was as follows:

Crimond School and Nursery: Core Quality Indicators Evaluations

Quality Indicators for the Primary Stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

Quality Indicators for the Nursery Class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Satisfactory
Securing children’s progress	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

- 2.5 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Aberdeenshire Council.
- Continue to share best practice across the staff team, in order to provide consistently high quality learning and teaching across the nursery and school. This includes building on approaches for children to lead their own learning.
 - Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy by ensuring that all children are appropriately challenged in their learning.
- 2.6 A detailed action plan to address the areas for improvement from the inspection report has been drawn up for both Crimond School and Nursery. These action plans will be incorporated into the school and nursery improvement planning for session 2019-20.
- 2.7 The head teacher will provide parents and carers with an update on the progress of the implementation of the plans for improvement as part of its annual standards and quality reporting arrangements.
- 2.8 Education Scotland have indicated that they are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and thus will not be returning to the school 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 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 and comment on this report in terms of section B 1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to a matter of performance and achievement for Crimond School and Nursery.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommended actions will not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no staffing and financial implications arising directly from this report. It is intended that any costs will be met from existing budgets.
- 4.3 No Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level.

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7th June 2019