
**PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT – SCHOOLS
(FOUNTAINHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS)**

Report by Director – Education & Lifelong Learning

Education Sub-Committee

2 March 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report proposes that the Committee considers His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) Reports for Fountainhall Primary School and Nursery Class and the Improvement Plan developed by the Headteacher to address the key recommendations.**
- 1.2 Fountainhall Primary School was inspected using a ‘full’ inspection model. This means that 4 key quality indicators were inspected in both the Early Learning and Childcare setting and the Primary School over a 5 day period.
- 1.3 The HMIE Report evaluated the Early Years setting and the Primary provision as good across almost all quality indicators, with evaluations of very good in the Nursery for ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion and very good in the Primary stages for learning, teaching and assessment. The evaluation gradings range given by HMIE on school inspections can range from unsatisfactory to excellent, so a grading of very good indicates there are major strengths in this aspect of the school’s work.
- 1.4 The Quality Improvement Team and Early Years Team will continue to work alongside the Headteacher to ensure continued progress towards excellence. The team will ensure that areas of very good practice are shared across the Local Authority.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the Committee approves:-

- 2.1 **The School Improvement Plan for Fountainhall Primary School which addresses areas for improvement as outlined in the HMIE Inspection Report (January 2023).**
- 2.2 **The Quality Improvement Team’s plan for support and showcasing of the work of Fountainhall Primary School following a strong inspection.**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education

His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) are part of Education Scotland, a National body who carry out scrutiny activities in all schools and settings. During the COVID-19 pandemic, all inspection activity ceased so there has been a time delay in the scrutiny activities carried out. This has allowed time for the school to lead the areas of improvement identified and to ensure measurable impact of these.

3.2 Scottish Borders Council Quality Improvement Framework

- a) The Education (Scotland) Act 2016, The Standard's in Scotland's Schools Act 2000 (amended to include the National Improvement Framework) place direct responsibility on Local Authorities to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education which is provided by the schools managed by it.
- b) The Quality Improvement Team has a relentless focus on supporting and challenging continuous improvement in schools and settings to ensure the best outcomes for our children and young people.

4 REPORT EVIDENCE FROM HMIE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY

4.1 In November 2022, a team of Inspectors from Education Scotland visited Fountainhall Primary School and Nursery Class. During their visit, the team talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the Headteacher and staff.

4.2 The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- a) The leadership of the headteacher and principal teacher in ensuring that the wellbeing of children is central to the work of all. As a result of their shared vision for the nursery class and school, all staff have a clear focus on supporting all children to achieve their full potential. The strong sense of teamwork results in an inclusive, family ethos.
- b) The very successful approaches to meeting the learning needs of all children in the multi-stage composite class. The skilled Senior Leaders, Teachers and support staff work together closely to provide a nurturing and highly motivating learning environment for children.
- c) Happy, articulate and confident children who are very proud of their nursery class and school. They have increasing ownership of their learning and show respect, empathy and kindness to each other.
- d) High standards in the teaching of literacy across the Nursery Class and School. Children at all stages are making very good progress in this area of learning.

4.3 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Headteacher and a representative from Scottish Borders Council.

4.4 Continue to take forward plans to refresh the unique curriculum offer for learners at Fountainhall, with a focus on developing children's skills for learning, life and work.

- 4.5 Continue to raise attainment in numeracy and mathematics, ensuring that all children are supported and challenged to make the best possible progress.
- 4.6 The inspection team are confident that the school has capacity to continue to improve and they will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.
- 4.7 **Local Authority Support**
In accordance with Scottish Borders Council's Quality Improvement Framework, a Quality Improvement Officer will continue to work alongside the School, offering a low level of support, to ensure continuous improvement.
- 4.8 The School will report progress in their annual Standards and Quality Report.

5 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **Financial**
There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.
- 5.2 **Risk and Mitigations**
The report fully describes all the elements of risk that have been identified in relation to this project and no specific additional concerns need to be addressed.
- 5.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment**
Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed and there is no requirement for a full IIA to be completed in relation to this report.
- 5.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**
There is no impact/difference to sustainable development goals.
- 5.6 **Rural Proofing**
Not applicable.
- 5.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**
There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.
- 5.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**
There are no changes to be made to the Scheme of Delegation which need to be made following the recommendations of this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received will be incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Lesley Munro

Director – Education & Lifelong Learning

Author(s)

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Background Papers:

HMIE Inspection Report January 2023

HMIE Summarised Inspection Findings (Nursery Class) January 2023

HMIE Summarised Inspection Findings (Primary School) January 2023

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Christian Robertson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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