

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

Report by Report by Director – Education & Lifelong Learning Education

EDUCATION PERFORMANCE SUB COMMITTEE

5 OCTOBER 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Committee considers His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) Reports for Walkerburn Primary School and Nursery Class and the Improvement Plan developed by the Headteacher to address the key recommendations.
- 1.2 Walkerburn 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 satisfactory across almost all quality indicators, with one evaluation of good for the ensuring wellbeing, equity and inclusion category. The evaluation gradings range given by HMIE on school inspections can range from unsatisfactory to excellent. A grading of good indicates there are important strengths with areas for improvement in this aspect of the school’s work. Gradings of satisfactory indicates strengths just outweigh weaknesses in this aspect of the school’s work. As a result, the school have been asked to prepare a focussed plan for improvement with a particular emphasis on addressing areas highlighted for improvement.
- 1.4 The Quality Improvement Team and Early Years Team will commence period of intense support and scrutiny to ensure progress is made by the Headteacher and the School.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the Committee approve:-

2.1 The School Improvement/ Action Plan for Walkerburn Primary School which addresses areas for improvement as outlined in the HMIE Inspection Report (May 2023).

2.2 The Quality Improvement Team's plan for scrutiny and support in accordance with the identified areas for improvement following a 'satisfactory' 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 May 2023, a team of Inspectors from Education Scotland visited Walkerburn 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:

- All staff work together well to provide care and support to children across the school and nursery. Children feel safe, valued and cared for.
- Children's increasing confidence using digital technology enhances their learning in the nursery and school.
- The school grounds and local environment are used well to provide rich and relevant learning experiences for children across the school.

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

- Senior leaders should review the roles and responsibilities of the staff team. This should support effective leadership and more robust evaluation of the work of the school and nursery.
- The staff team should continue to improve learning and teaching across the school and nursery. Staff should provide the right amount of challenge for all children in their learning and play.
- Staff should continue to develop approaches to planning and assessment to ensure that all children make the best possible progress in their learning across the curriculum.

4.4 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.

4.5 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 high level of support, to ensure continuous improvement. A formal Support Plan will be prepared by the Quality Improvement Officer with clear targets for improvement and identification of key roles and responsibilities. A follow-up school review will take place by a team from Scottish Borders Council in May 2024.

4.6 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: Approved by Lesley Munro, Director – Education & Lifelong Learning

Author(s)

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Background Papers:

HMIE Inspection Report May 2023

HMIE Summarised Inspection Findings (Nursery Class) May 2023

HMIE Summarised Inspection Findings (Primary School) May 2023

Previous Minute Reference:

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

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