
PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT REPORT SCHOOLS (STIRCHES 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 Stirches Primary School and Nursery Class and the Improvement Plan developed by the Headteacher to address the key recommendations.
- 1.2 Stirches Primary School was inspected using a 'short' inspection model. This means that only two quality indicators were inspected in both the Early Learning and Childcare setting and the Primary School over a 3 day period.
- 1.3 The HMIE Report evaluated the Early Learning and Childcare provision as good and the Primary provision as satisfactory across quality indicators. 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. A grading of satisfactory means that the strengths within this aspect of the setting's work just outweigh the weaknesses 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 good practice are shared across the Local Authority.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the Committee approve:-

- 2.1 The School Improvement Plan for Stirches Primary School which addresses areas for improvement as outlined in the HMIE Inspection Report (June 2023).**

2.2 The Quality Improvement Team's plan for support and showcasing of the work of Stirches Primary School following the 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 June 2023, a team of Inspectors from Education Scotland visited Stirches 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:

- The relatively new headteacher has established a strong and positive culture in the school and nursery. Children behave very well and there is a calm and purposeful environment for learning.
- Teachers and senior leaders have worked well together to ensure children experience high-quality learning, teaching and assessment across the school. They have improved their approaches to using data to identify gaps in children's learning.

- Practitioners in the nursery engage children well through a range of learning experiences indoors and outdoors. They have a strong focus on helping all children to achieve the best possible outcomes.

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

- Senior leaders should support teachers to reflect on their practice to make sure it is improving children's progress in learning.
- Teachers and practitioners need to involve children in planning what and how they learn. This will ensure children know how well they are progressing.
- Continue to raise children's levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy at all stages.

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 support, to ensure continuous improvement. The Local Authority is confident in the Headteacher's capacity to continue to improve the school.

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)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Gillian McKenzie	Quality Improvement Officer – 01835 824000 Extension No. 8006

Background Papers:

HMIE Inspection Report June 2023

HMIE Summarised Inspection Findings (Nursery Class) June 2023

HMIE Summarised Inspection Findings (Primary School) June 2023

Previous Minute Reference:

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Contact us at Senior Management Support, Children & Young People’s Services, People Department, Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA.

Tel 01835 825080

SeniorMgtSupport@scotborders.gov.uk