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**PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT REPORT – SCHOOLS  
(AYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL)**

**Report by Report by Director – Education & Lifelong Learning Education**

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**EDUCATION PERFORMANCE SUB COMMITTEE**

**23 JANUARY 2024**

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**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Committee considers His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) Reports for Ayton Primary School and the Improvement Plan developed by the Headteacher to address the key recommendations.
- 1.2. Ayton Primary School was inspected using a ‘full’ inspection model. This means that 4 key quality indicators were inspected in the Primary School over a 5 day period.
- 1.3. The HMIE Report evaluated the Primary provision as good, across all quality indicators. The evaluation gradings range given by HMIE on school inspections can range from unsatisfactory to excellent. A grading of very good indicates there are major strengths in this aspect of the school’s work. Gradings of good indicates there are important strengths with areas for improvement in this aspect of the school’s work.
- 1.4. The Quality Improvement 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 agree:-**

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

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 His Majesty's Inspectorate 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 December 2023, a team of Inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ayton Primary School. 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 very welcoming children and staff who make Ayton Primary School a happy place to learn. Caring and nurturing relationships between all staff and children ensure children feel safe and engage well in learning.
  - The Headteacher provides strong leadership for the school community. She is driving forward school improvements well. In her short time in post, the positive impact on children's experiences and outcomes is evident.
  - The recent improvements in digital learning approaches which are leading to children using technology effectively to enhance and extend their learning.
  - The positive steps in raising attainment of children across the school, particularly in reading, listening and talking and numeracy.
- 4.3 The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Headteacher and a representative from Scottish Borders Council.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to improve high quality learning and teaching across the school. This should include increased opportunities for children to lead and review their learning.
  - Develop a robust strategic overview of children's additional support needs across the school. This will ensure all staff are confident in the range of supports used in Ayton Primary School to meet learner's needs. This will help senior leaders to evidence more clearly the positive impact of the support children receive.

- Senior leaders need to improve the recording and tracking of data and measure and close gaps in children's learning more effectively.

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 low level of support, to ensure continuous improvement.

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**

**Name: Lesley Munro**

**Title: Director Education & Lifelong Learning**

**Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
James Bewsey	Quality Improvement Officer – 01835 824000 Ext No. 5541

**Background Papers:**

HMIE Inspection Report (5 December 2023)

HMIE Summarised Inspection Findings (5 December 2023)

HMIE Pre-Inspection Questionnaire Summary Report (23 October 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 Senior Management Support Admin Team can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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

Telephone: 01835 824000

[SeniorMgtSupport@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:SeniorMgtSupport@scotborders.gov.uk)