

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 10 June 2009

Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education: Report on St Kessog's Primary School

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of St Kessog's Primary School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 5 May 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1** In March 2009, St Kessog's Primary School was inspected under new inspection procedures as part of a national sample of primary education. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school. It evaluated:

- pupils' learning and achievement,
- the curriculum and meeting learning needs,
- how well staff worked with others to support young people's learning,
- how well staff and pupils were actively involved in improving their school community,
- did the school have high expectations of all young people and
- did the school have a clear sense of direction?

- 2.2** Her Majesty's Inspectors examined pupils' work and interviewed groups of pupils, including the pupil council, and staff. Members of the inspection team also met the chairperson of the Parent Council, representatives of the parent-teacher association (PTA) and a group of parents. The inspection team also evaluated aspects of the school's progress in implementing national recommendations related to improving aspects of school meals provision. The inspection report is available at <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/> and a copy is attached as an appendix.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Members will note that HM Inspectors identified key strengths within the school, in particular:

- Children's behaviour, active participation in learning and their contributions to improving the school.
- Staff teamwork and commitment to meeting all learners' needs.

- Shared values which permeate the strong community of faith.
- Innovative approaches to implementing Curriculum for Excellence, and
- Visionary leadership of the headteacher.

3.2 Members will note that in relation to the five indicators of quality used in this new inspection procedure, three were evaluated as excellent and two were evaluated as very good. St Kessog's Primary School has achieved the highest evaluations of any West Dunbartonshire school under the new style of inspection. Very few schools across Scotland have achieved excellent evaluations in such numbers.

3.3 Members will also note that the inspectors identified three areas of good practice that will appear on the HMIE national website for all schools to view. These were:

- Using children's views to improve learning and teaching through The Pulse.
- Meeting children's needs using a masterclass approach.
- Interdisciplinary approaches to learning.

3.4 HMIE disengaged early from the inspection recognising the strong learning community that was well established within the school. The headteacher was described as inspiring, providing outstanding leadership with a strong focus on teamwork and improvement.

3.5 The Inspectors have agreed the following area for improvement with the school and education authority:

- Continue to develop the curriculum in line with the principles of Curriculum for Excellence and increase children's achievements through wide ranging approaches to self-evaluation.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 This report has no implications for personnel.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The delegated school budget will finance the action plan.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 HMIE will make no further visits to the school in relation to this report. The council will report on progress as part of its arrangements for reporting to parents.

7. Conclusions and Officers' Recommendations

7.2 The Committee is invited:

- (a) to note the contents of this report; and;
- (b) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of St Kessog's Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 5 May 2009.

Terry Lanagan,
Executive Director of Educational Services

Person to Contact: Sandra Love, Head of Service (Quality), Department of Educational Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU
Telephone No: 01389 737304
E-mail: sandra.love@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendix: Copy of report on St Kessog's Primary School

Wards Affected: Ward 1