

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 24 August 2010

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of Whitecrook Primary School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 15 June 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1** In April 2010, Whitecrook Primary School was inspected 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 Appendix 1.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Members will note that HM Inspectors identified key strengths within the school, in particular:
- highly motivated children who are well behaved and enjoy their learning;
 - staff relationships and their care for the welfare of all children, in particular the promotion of children's health and wellbeing;

- partnerships with parents and the community to support children's needs;
 - staff who strive to meet the needs of all learners and
 - the quality of leadership across the school and the approaches to improving the school.
- 3.2** Members will note that in relation to the five indicators of quality used in this inspection procedure, four were evaluated as very good and one was evaluated as good. These evaluations are recognised as a positive report in relation to the target on school inspections in the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.3** HMIE disengaged early from the school recognising the robust self-evaluation that was in place. Time was given over to discussion on supporting the work of the school.
- 3.4** The Inspectors have agreed the following areas for improvement with the school and education authority:
- develop further the curriculum, taking account of the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, ensuring progression and continuity in learning; and
 - continue to develop children as independent learners.
- 4. People Implications**
- 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. Equalities Impact**
- 7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report.
- 8. Conclusions and Recommendations**
- 8.1** Within 2 years of the date of publication, parents and carers will be informed by the Council on the progress made by the school in the points for action.
- 8.2** The Committee is invited:
- (a) to note the contents of this report; and;

- (b) to congratulate the headteacher, staff, parents and children of Whitecrook Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 15 June 2010.

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Appendices: **Appendix 1:** Copy of HMIE report on Whitecrook Primary School

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: Ward 6