

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 14 March 2012

Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education: Report on Our Lady & St Patrick's High School

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of Our Lady & St Patrick's High School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 28 February 2012.

2. Background

- 2.1** In January 2012, Our Lady & St Patrick's High School was inspected as part of a national sample of secondary education. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school. It evaluated:

- how well young people learn and achieve,
- how well the school supports young people to develop and learn, and
- how well the school improves the quality of its work.

The evaluations consider

- 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 pupils, staff and parents. 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:
- the leadership of the head teacher, senior managers and across the school;

- approaches to implementing Curriculum for Excellence;
- young people's levels of attainment and quality and range of achievements;
- well-coordinated, partnership and collaborative approaches to supporting young people's social, emotional and learning needs;
- commitment and skill of staff in using self-evaluation to improve the school; and
- consistently high expectations of staff and young people's attitude to work.

3.2 Members will note the evaluations of the indicators of quality used in this inspection procedure:

QI 1.1 Improvements in performance	Excellent
QI 2.1 Learners' experiences	Very Good
QI 5.1 The curriculum	Very Good
QI 5.3 Meeting learning needs	Excellent
QI 5.9 Improvement through self-evaluation	Excellent

3.3 These evaluations are recognised as a positive report in relation to the target on school inspections in the Single Outcome Agreement. Indeed, this is one of the most positive inspections of any secondary school in Scotland since the new inspection model was introduced almost four years ago.

3.4 The Inspectors have agreed the following agenda for continuous improvement with the school and the education authority:

- continue to build on the very effective work in developing the curriculum and taking forward plans for the senior phase;
- share the good and innovative practice in the school more widely both locally and nationally.

4. People Implications

4.1 This report has no implications for personnel.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The improvement agenda will be financed by the school's delegated budget as appropriate.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 During the inspection aspects of innovative practice were identified which HMIE would like to explore further in order to share with others.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 No significant equalities issues were identified in relation to this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 The HMIE report provides evidence of the high quality service provided to young people by the school.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 Within 1 year of the date of publication, parents and carers will be informed by the Council on the progress made by the school in its agenda for continuous improvement. Elected members will also be informed about the innovative practice shared with others by HMIE.

9.2 The Committee is invited:

- (a) to note the contents of this report; and;
- (b) to congratulate the head teacher, staff, parents and young people of Our Lady & St Patrick's High School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in this outstanding report published on 28 February 2012.

Terry Lanagan,
Executive Director of Educational Services

Person to Contact: Laura Mason, Head of Service, Department of Educational Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU
Telephone No: 01389 737304
E-mail: laura.mason@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: **Appendix 1:** Copy of HMIE report on Our Lady & St Patrick's High School

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: Ward 3