

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 20 June 2007

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of Dalreoch Primary School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report, published by HMIE on 8 May 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1** Dalreoch Primary School was inspected in February 2007 as part of a national sample of primary education. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages. It evaluated pupils' achievements, the effectiveness of the school, the environment for learning, the school's processes for self-evaluation and capacity for improvement. There was a particular focus on attainment and teaching and learning activities in English language and mathematics.
- 2.2** Her Majesty's Inspectors examined pupils' work and interviewed staff and pupils. Responses to questionnaires issued to a sample of parents, pupils in P4 to P7 and to all staff were also analysed. The inspection report is available at <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/>

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Members will note that HM Inspectors identified key strengths within the school, in particular:
- friendly and confident pupils;
 - attainment at the early stages in English language;
 - productive relationships between staff and pupils, and with the local community.
- 3.2** Members will note that in relation to the indicators of quality, 3 of the indicators were rated good, 7 were rated as adequate and 3 were rated as weak. There were no 'unsatisfactory' evaluations.

- 3.3** Overall, the inspection found that Dalreoch Primary School had a number of strengths which just outweighed weaknesses. Parents were satisfied with most aspects of the school. Pupils felt safe and well looked after. Most pupils at all stages were attaining appropriate national standards.
- 3.4** The Inspectors reported that the school and the education authority, in liaison with HM Inspectors, should take action to ensure improvement to:
- teaching approaches, including the use of assessment information to plan next steps in pupils' learning and track their progress;
 - meeting the learning needs of pupils through more rigorous support and challenge;
 - leadership of the school;
 - the effectiveness of the school's processes of self-evaluation, including procedures to monitor the quality of learning and teaching.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** Following retirement of the headteacher, appointment procedures are in progress to appoint a new headteacher.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The delegated school budget will finance the action plan.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** HM Inspectors will publish an interim report on progress within one year of the publication of this report. The school and the education authority have prepared an action plan indicating how the main findings of the report will be taken forward. The plan will be shared with parents/carers and school staff. An acting headteacher, working closely with school staff and central support has already made significant progress in addressing issues within the report.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Members are requested:

- (a) to note the contents of this report; and
- (b) to recognise the strengths of the report and congratulate the staff, parents and children of Dalreoch Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by HMle in the report published on 8 May 2007.

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