

## **West Dunbartonshire Council**

### **Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services**

**Children's Services Committee: 14 February 2007**

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**Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education: Report on St Andrew's High School**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of St Andrew's High School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report, published by HMIE on 23 January 2007.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** St Andrew's High School was inspected in September 2006 as part of a national sample of secondary 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, mathematics, modern languages and physical education.
- 2.2** Her Majesty's Inspectors examined pupils' work and interviewed staff and pupils. Responses to questionnaires issued to a sample of parents, pupils 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:
- The very purposeful atmosphere and culture of achievement;
  - Well behaved pupils who were enthusiastic and motivated in their learning;
  - The quality of teaching and increasingly effective use of information and communications technology;
  - Pupils' attainment at all stages;
  - The school's climate for learning and positive ethos, underpinned by a strong commitment to faith;
  - Very effective approaches to meeting pupils' needs;
  - The staff's commitment to providing opportunities for wider achievement and pupil participation in sporting and extra curricular activities.
- 3.2** Members will note that in relation to the indicators of quality, 2 of the indicators were rated as excellent. This is the first secondary school in West Dunbartonshire to have been awarded not one but two excellent gradings.

The remaining indicators of quality were evaluated as 13 in the very good category and 3 in the good category. One indicator for quality of accommodation and facilities was rated as adequate. There were no 'unsatisfactory' evaluations.

- 3.3** Overall, the inspection found that the achievements of St Andrew's High School are of a high standard and that the school, parents and children as well as everyone associated with the school should be congratulated on the performance identified within the report.
- 3.4** The Inspectors reported that the school and the education authority, in liaison with HM Inspectors, should take action to ensure improvement to:
- Ensure a greater focus from staff at all levels on the quality of pupils' learning to bring about consistency within and across departments.

#### **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** There are no risk analysis implications.

#### **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1** HM Inspectors will make no further reports in connection with this inspection. This is a clear indication of the quality of the inspection. The school and the education authority will prepare 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. Within 2 years of the date of publication, parents and carers will be informed about the progress made by the school.

## **8. Recommendations**

### **8.1 Members are requested:**

- (a) to note the contents of this report; and
- (b) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of St Andrew's High School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 23 January 2007.

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Liz McGinlay,  
Director of Education and Cultural Services

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**Wards Affected:** **Ward 20 Haldane/Kilmaronock/Jamestown**