

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 13 December 2006

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of Gartocharn Primary School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report, published by HMIE on 24 October 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1** Gartocharn Primary School was inspected in June 2006 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:
- the calm and purposeful learning environment and the confident, courteous and well behaved pupils;
 - positive relationships between teachers, pupils and support staff and the commitment to the care and welfare of the pupils;
 - the successful promotion of a healthy lifestyle;
 - links with parents, support agencies and the wider community;
 - the leadership of the school.
- 3.2** Members will note that in relation to the indicators of quality, 7 of the indicators were rated very good, 7 were rated as good. There were no 'unsatisfactory' evaluations.

- 3.3** Overall, the inspection found that the achievements of Gartocharn Primary 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:
- further develop approaches to self-evaluation of learning and teaching to improve consistency of practice;
 - ensure that the pace of learning and level of challenge are sufficient to meet the needs of all pupils.

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. Conclusions

- 6.1** HM Inspectors will make no further reports in connection with this 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.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** Members are requested:
- (a) to note the contents of this report; and
 - (b) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of Gartocharn Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 24 October 2006.

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