

**To: Education and Children Policy Board**

**On: 19 January 2017**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Joint inspection of Houston Primary School and Nursery Class, Houston**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Houston Primary School was jointly inspected by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, in October 2016, as part of a national sample of education provision. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 20 December 2016, is attached as an appendix to this report. The letter to parents is also available from the director of children's services or from the Education Scotland website [www.educationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk)
- 1.2. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the quality of education. Inspectors assessed the school, with a focus on four quality indicators which were: leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; raising attainment and achievement; and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. In addition the Care Inspectorate evaluated the quality of care and support; the quality of environment; quality of staffing and quality of management and leadership.
- 1.3. This was a positive joint inspection and the letter to parents identified five key strengths of the school and nursery class. These were:
  - highly motivated and engaged children who are keen to learn;
  - the leadership of the headteacher and her deposes in bringing about change;
  - the strong collaborative working of all staff which is taking forward school improvement;
  - the high levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy; and
  - the strong positive relationships between the school and its community which are supporting children in their learning, wellbeing and development.

- 1.4. The report identified two areas for further improvement. These were:
- develop further the approaches to learning and teaching to promote increased personalisation and choice, and enable children to become more independent learners; and
  - within the nursery, continue to improve how staff track and monitor children's progress over time.
- 1.5. Children's services has an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. The school and the service will prepare an action plan indicating how they will address the points for action in the report, and share this plan with parents. In addition, the school will be supported in its improvement by children's services. Within two years of the publication of the letter to parents, children's services will inform parents of the progress made by the school in addressing the main points for action.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Members of the education and children policy board are asked to note the key strengths and the areas for improvement in the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate report on Houston Primary School and Nursery Class.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1. Education Scotland's letters to parents are published online by Education Scotland.
- 3.2. The report includes two recommendations for improvement. These recommendations will be addressed through an action plan, produced by the school and supported by children's services staff.
- 3.3. Progress on the action plan will be monitored by children's services staff on a proportionate basis. A report will be prepared within two years of the original inspection, detailing the progress made in implementing the action plan. This report will be made available to parents.
- 3.4. Children's services welcomes the process of audit undertaken by Education Scotland as supportive to continuous improvement in Renfrewshire education establishments. The inspection report will be used by the school and the service in the context of supporting and developing the quality of educational provision.
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## **Implications of this report**

1. **Financial Implications**  
None.
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications**  
None.
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

Children and Young People	- High standards of education provision ensure that children and young people are given the best start in life so that they promote and contribute to a more prosperous, fairer society.
Community Care, Health and Well-being	- By providing an environment which encourages care, welfare and development, establishments play a crucial role in developing children and young people so that they become responsible citizens. The school and nursery's success in promoting healthy lifestyles is evaluated as part of the quality assurance process.
Empowering our Communities	- High standards of education provision ensure that children and young people are given the best start in life so that they promote and contribute to a more prosperous, fairer society.
Greener	- Participation in the eco-schools programme encourages young people to become environmentally aware.
Jobs and the Economy	- The quality assurance process contributes to our young people becoming successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000.

#### **5. Property/Assets Implications**

None.

#### **6. Information Technology Implications**

None.

#### **7. Equality and Human Rights Implications**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only.

#### **8. Health and Safety Implications**

None.

#### **9. Procurement Implications**

None.

#### **10. Risk Implications**

None.

**11. Privacy Impact**  
None.

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**List of Background Papers**

(a) None.

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***Children's Services***  
TMcE  
7 December 2017

**Author:** Tony McEwan, Education Manager (planning and performance),  
Telephone no: 0141 618 7198

20 December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2016 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Houston Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and young people's success and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Highly motivated and engaged children who are keen to learn.
- The leadership of the headteacher and her deputies in bringing about change.
- The strong collaborative working of all staff which is taking forward school improvement.
- The high levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- The strong positive relationships between the school and its community which are supporting children in their learning, wellbeing and development.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Renfrewshire Council:

- Develop further the approaches to learning and teaching to promote increased personalisation and choice, and enable children to become more independent learners.
- Within the nursery, continue to improve how staff track and monitor children's progress over time.

**Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school.** You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*<sup>1</sup>. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland’s evaluations for Houston Primary School:

<b>Leadership of Change</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>Very Good</b>

## Nursery class

<b>Leadership of Change</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Securing children’s progress</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>Very Good</b>

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<sup>1</sup> *How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

## Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Quality of environment</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Quality of management and leadership</b>	<b>Very Good</b>

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class:

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the nursery had one requirement and two recommendations. From these, one requirement and one recommendation have been met. Outstanding issues relating to recording observations to show children's progress and how this is being tracked are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and one recommendation

The letter is available on the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate websites at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/primsec/HoustonPrimarySchoolRenfrewshire.asp> and

<http://www.scswis.com/>

### What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Renfrewshire Council will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any Requirements and Recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Charles Rooney  
HM Inspector

Malcolm Wilson  
Care Inspector

If you would like to receive this report in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the telephone number below and we will let you know what is available.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by e-mail: [complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk), or telephone us on the number below, or write to us addressing your letter to

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