

**To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board**

**On: 1 November 2018**

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

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**Heading: Inspection of St Fergus' Primary School, Paisley**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 St Fergus' Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in May 2018 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 28 August 2018 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: <https://education.gov.scot/>.
- 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.
- 1.3 This was a very positive inspection which evaluated three quality indicators as 'good' and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion as 'very good'.

The letter to parents also identified four key strengths of the school. These were:

- The commitment of the staff team, driven by the headteacher, to improving the life chances of children. Strong teamwork is evident across staff as they work hard to provide a positive learning environment for children.
- The development of a 'can do' attitude in children who are confident in taking on new challenges. Children feel supported and encouraged by

staff to achieve their best. The work of staff in providing a bright and stimulating learning environment for children.

- The very inclusive and nurturing approach by staff, which ensures children feel safe and cared for whilst at school.
- Children's understanding of health and wellbeing and the support provided by the school to ensure children develop in this area. Children's engagement in assessment of their wellbeing.

1.4 The letter to parents also identified three areas for further improvement:

- Ensure greater consistency across the school in providing planned experiences for children to successfully lead their learning.
- Continue to seek ways to increase parental engagement in children's learning and the life of the school.
- Continue to develop successful strategies to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.

1.5 Children's services has an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. The school and the service will prepare a short action plan (detailed within the School Improvement 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 continued improvement by children's services.

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## 2. **Recommendations**

2.1 Members of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board are asked to note the key strengths and the areas for improvement in the Education Scotland report on St Fergus Primary School.

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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 three recommendations for improvement. This will be addressed through the school's improvement plan, produced by the school and supported by children's services staff.

3.3 Progress on the school improvement plan will be monitored by children's services staff on a proportionate basis.

- 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 the Report**

1. **Financial** : None
2. **HR & Organisational Development**: None
3. **Community/Council Planning –**
  - Our Renfrewshire is thriving: 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.
  - Our Renfrewshire is well – 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 establishment's success in promoting wellbeing is evaluated as part of the inspection process.
4. **Legal**: None
5. **Property**: None
6. **Information Technology**: None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

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. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety**: None
9. **Procurement**: None
10. **Risk**: None
11. **Privacy Impact**: None

12. **Cosla Policy Position:** Not applicable

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**List of Background Papers**

None

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28 August 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Fergus' Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- The commitment of the staff team, driven by the headteacher, to improving the life chances of children. Strong teamwork is evident across staff as they work hard to provide a positive learning environment for children.
- The development of a 'can do' attitude in children who are confident in taking on new challenges. Children feel supported and encouraged by staff to achieve their best. The work of staff in providing a bright and stimulating learning environment for children.
- The very inclusive and nurturing approach by staff, which ensures children feel safe and cared for whilst at school.
- Children's understanding of health and wellbeing and the support provided by the school to ensure children develop in this area. Children's engagement in assessment of their wellbeing.

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

- Ensure greater consistency across the school in providing planned experiences for children to successfully lead their learning.
- Continue to seek ways to increase parental engagement in children's learning and the life of the school.
- Continue to develop successful strategies to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for St Fergus' Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition)</a> , <a href="#">Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a> .	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8625921>.

### 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/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Marie McAdam  
HM Inspector