

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 1 June 2017

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Inspection of Johnstone High School, Johnstone

1. Summary

- 1.1. Johnstone High School was inspected by Education Scotland in November 2016 as part of a national sample of education provision. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 16 March 2017, 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
- 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. The letter to parents identified five key strengths of the school. These were:
 - The strong leadership of the headteacher who has a clear vision for what the school can achieve. The headteacher has a relentless drive to ensure the highest possible standards for all young people at Johnstone High School. Together with other leaders, she has made a strong start to bringing about improvements in the school;
 - Most young people are ready to learn, cooperative, and confident in giving their views. They are keen to take an increasingly active role in their learning, and in the life and work of the school;
 - The curriculum is meeting the needs of most young people from S4-S6 through an increasing range of courses and opportunities for achievement; and
 - The school's progress in working with partners to enrich the learning experience of young people.

1.4. The report identified five areas for further improvement:

- Plan and implement improvements in a streamlined way so that the strong vision for the school can be further advanced;
- Through distributed leadership of learning, develop a shared understanding across the school community of what effective teaching, learning and assessment look like. This will ensure consistently high quality learning and teaching in all lessons;
- Ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities for the health and wellbeing of young people across the school;
- Raise attainment and continue to prioritise equity for all young people; and
- Review the curriculum for S1-S3 to ensure that young people at these stages benefit fully from Curriculum for Excellence.

1.5. Children's services has an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. The school and the service has already prepared an action plan indicating how they will address the points for action in the report, and share this plan with parents.

1.6. Education Scotland has advised that it will continue its engagement with Johnstone High School and will inspect the school in a year's time to evaluate the progress the school has made in implementing the areas for development. A further report will then be brought to the education and children policy board.

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 Johnstone High School.

3. Background

3.1. Education Scotland's letters to parents are published online by Education Scotland.

3.2. The report includes five 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. In 2015, Children's Services' quality assurance procedures highlighted the lack of progress the school was making in improving its provision. As a result a number of key interventions have been made to improve the work of the school including:

- The appointment of an acting head teacher and an education officer to the school to improve leadership of the school;
- A 'team around the school' being appointed to oversee improvements and to monitor, in collaboration with the acting head teacher, the action plan and to allocate any additional resources which may be required;
- An investment in the quality of teaching resources;

- Repairs to the fabric and interior of the school; and
 - Additional support to the school to resolve outstanding HR issues.
- 3.4. Children's services continues to monitor the improvement in the school and the previous acting head teacher has now been appointed as the substantive head teacher. This will provide much needed consistency in high quality leadership at the school.
- 3.5. A further report by Education Scotland will be provided to parents after the follow through inspection in a year's time. This report will be made available to parents and submitted to the education and children policy board.
- 3.6. 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.

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.
-

List of Background Papers

- (a) None.

Children's Services

TMcE

17 May 2017

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



21 March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2016, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Johnstone High School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the quality of leadership, learning and teaching and young people's achievements and wellbeing.

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

- The strong leadership of the headteacher who has a clear vision for what the school can achieve. The headteacher has a relentless drive to ensure the highest possible standards for all young people at Johnstone High School. Together with other leaders in the school, she has made a strong start to bringing about improvements in the school.
- Most young people are ready to learn, cooperative, and confident in giving their views. They are keen to take an increasingly active role in their learning, and in the life and work of the school.
- The curriculum is meeting the needs of most young people from S4-S6 through an increasing range of courses and opportunities for achievement.
- The school's progress in working with partners to enrich the learning experience of young people.

The following areas for improvement were agreed with the headteacher and representatives from Renfrewshire Council:

- Plan and implement improvements in a streamlined way so that the strong vision for the school can be further advanced.
- Through distributed leadership of learning, develop a shared understanding across the school community of what effective teaching, learning and assessment look like. This will ensure consistently high quality learning and teaching in all lessons.
- Ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities for the health and wellbeing of young people across the school.
- Raise attainment and continue to prioritise equity for all young people.
- Review the curriculum for S1-S3 to ensure that young people at these stages benefit fully from Curriculum for Excellence.

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*¹? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Johnstone High School

Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak

The letter and a more detailed summary of inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/reports/renfrewshire/8628130>

What happens next?

We will liaise with Renfrewshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school. We will discuss with Renfrewshire Council the details of this inspection. Following our return to inspect the school, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Guch Dhillon
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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, or telephone us on the number below, or write to us addressing your letter to

The Complaints

Manager

Education

Scotland Denholm

House Almondvale

Business Park

Almondvale Way

Livingston EH54 6GA

T +44 (0)131 244 4330

E enquiries@educationscotland.gov.uk

www.educationscotland.gov.uk

© Crown Copyright, 2017

You may re-use this information (excluding images and logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence providing that it is reproduced accurately and not in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Education Scotland copyright and the document title specified.

To view this licence, visit <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence> or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.