

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

**On: 18 January 2018**

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

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**Heading: Inspection of St Fillan's Primary School, Houston**

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**1. Summary**

1.1 St Fillan's Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in September 2017 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 7 November 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: <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 positive inspection and the letter to parents identified four key strengths of the school. These were:

- Staff across the school who have created a caring and inclusive ethos. As a result, relationships throughout the school are positive.
- Articulate, polite children who are generous, thoughtful, and show care and respect for each other.
- The range of partnerships and opportunities for wider achievement which enhance children's learning and enable them to make a positive contribution to their school community.

- The willingness of the new senior leadership team and staff to work collaboratively to provide stability. The encouraging steps to begin to prioritise the improvements which will make the greatest difference to the outcomes for children.

1.4 The report identified three areas for further improvement:

- Develop strong and consistent strategic leadership of change. Ensure the improvement agenda is based on well-judged key priorities. Improve the approaches to self-evaluation to ensure the work of the school is being effectively monitored and leads to continuous improvement.
- The curriculum rationale needs to reflect the school community more clearly. It needs to offer rich contexts for learning which inspire children and enable them to apply their learning to reach the highest possible standards.
- Improve the consistency of learning, teaching and assessment. Ensure pace and challenge across learning is set at the right level to meet the needs of all learners.

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.

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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 Fillan's 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. 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 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**
  - (a) 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**

- (a) None
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7 November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Fillan's Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

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

- Staff across the school who have created a caring and inclusive ethos. As a result, relationships throughout the school are positive.
- Articulate, polite children who are generous, thoughtful, and show care and respect for each other.
- The range of partnerships and opportunities for wider achievement which enhance children's learning and enable them to make a positive contribution to their school community.
- The willingness of the new senior leadership team and staff to work collaboratively to provide stability. The encouraging steps to begin to prioritise the improvements which will make the greatest difference to the outcomes for children.

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

- Develop strong and consistent strategic leadership of change. Ensure the improvement agenda is based on well-judged key priorities. Improve the approaches to self-evaluation to ensure the work of the school is being effectively monitored and leads to continuous improvement.
- The curriculum rationale needs to reflect the school community more clearly. It needs to offer rich contexts for learning which inspire children and enable them to apply their learning to reach the highest possible standards.
- Improve the consistency of learning, teaching and assessment. Ensure pace and challenge across learning is set at the right level to meet the needs of all learners.

**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*<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 St Fillan's Primary School

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

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at;

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8622329>

### 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.

Shona ES Taylor  
HM Inspector

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

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