

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 23 August 2018

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Inspection of St Anthony's Primary School, Johnstone

1. Summary

- 1.1 St Anthony's Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in April 2018 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 12 June 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 an exceptionally positive inspection which evaluated all four quality indicators as 'very good'. The letter to parents identified four key strengths of the school. These were:
 - The leadership of the head teacher and senior management in improving the work of the school. Across all areas of the school, a strong staff team who are committed to ensuring children receive high quality learning experiences where wellbeing is at the centre of school life.
 - The work of the school in improving approaches to literacy and English language. The shared and consistent approach to reading and writing which is creating for children a literacy rich environment.

- Hard working, courteous and well behaved children who show resilience. Positive relationships between teachers and children which support a purposeful inclusive learning climate, characterised by mutual respect.
- The effective partnership working across the school community to support and enhance children's learning.

1.4 The letter to parents identified the following area for further improvement:

- Staff should now look to refresh the curriculum rationale and learning pathways to take better account of the school's unique setting in its community and improve relevance and progression. This should extend to embedding the skills for learning, life and work across all aspects of school life.

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 point 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.

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 Anthony's Primary School.

3. **Background**

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

3.2 The report includes one recommendation 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.

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

List of Background Papers

None

Author: Julie Colquhoun, Education Manager, tel: 0141 618 6009

12 June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Anthony's 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 leadership of the headteacher and senior management in improving the work of the school. Across all areas of the school, a strong staff team who are committed to ensuring children receive high quality learning experiences where wellbeing is at the centre of school life.
- The work of the school in improving approaches to literacy and English language. The shared and consistent approach to reading and writing which is creating for children a literacy rich environment.
- Hard working, courteous and well behaved children who show resilience. Positive relationships between teachers and children which support a purposeful inclusive learning climate, characterised by mutual respect.
- The effective partnership working across the school community to support and enhance children's learning.

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

- Staff should now look to refresh the curriculum rationale and learning pathways to take better account of the school's unique setting in its community and improve relevance and progression. This should extend to embedding the skills for learning, life and work across all aspects of school life.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the schools work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Anthony's Primary School

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

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8622922>

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.

Charles Rooney
HM Inspector