

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 15 March 2018

Report by: Director of Children's Services

**Heading: Inspection of Gallowhill Primary School and Nursery Class,
Paisley**

1. Summary

- 1.1. Gallowhill Primary School and nursery class was inspected by Education Scotland in November 2017 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents will be published by Education Scotland on 6 March 2018, is attached as an appendix to this report. The letter to parents/carers 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. Inspection findings indicate that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. Two of the quality indicators were evaluated as 'weak'. The letter to parents/carers identified three key strengths of the school and nursery class. These were:
 - Children who are enthusiastic and eager to be involved in further improving their school.
 - The hard working staff team, and the positive steps they have taken to work with parents, carers and partners in the local community.

- The high quality of caring interactions and wide range of learning experiences for children in the nursery.

1.4. The letter identified four areas for further improvement:

- There is a need to raise attainment for all children in literacy and numeracy. There are a range of initiatives in place to support children and staff should evaluate the impact they are having on learning.
- Improve learning, teaching and assessment to ensure the needs of all children are met and they are all are fully engaged in their learning.
- Staff should further develop the curriculum with a clear focus on raising attainment.
- The school should improve how they track the progress children are making in their learning and use the information to plan next steps.

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.

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 Gallowhill Primary School and nursery class.

3. Background

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

3.2. The report includes four 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 closely by children's services staff. Education Scotland will return to carry out a further inspection within one year of publication of the letter to parents. Following this, they will write to parents/carers informing them of the progress the school has made.

- 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.

List of Background Papers

None

Children's Services
MT
21/2/18

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6 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Gallowhill Primary School and nursery class. 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.

- Children who are enthusiastic and eager to be involved in further improving their school.
- The hard working staff team, and the positive steps they have taken to work with parents, carers and partners in the local community.
- The high quality of caring interactions and wide range of learning experiences for children in the nursery.

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

- There is a need to raise attainment for all children in literacy and numeracy. There are a range of initiatives in place to support children and staff should evaluate the impact they are having on learning.
- Improve learning, teaching and assessment to ensure the needs of all children are met and they are all are fully engaged in their learning.
- Staff should further develop the curriculum with a clear focus on raising attainment.
- The school should improve how they track the progress children are making in their learning and use the information to plan next steps.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from How good is our school? (4th edition). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Gallowhill Primary School

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

Quality Indicators nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of Change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale.	

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8625026>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. 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 within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Renfrewshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Monica McGeever
HM Inspector

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