

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

**On: 29 October 2020**

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

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**Heading: Inspection of St. James' Primary School, Renfrew**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 St. James' Primary school was inspected by Education Scotland in March 2020 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 18 August 2020, 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 Education Scotland use different models of inspection. At St. James' Primary School the short inspection model was applied. The duration of the inspection was three days. Inspectors assessed the school, with a focus on two quality indicators which were: learning, teaching and assessment; and raising attainment and achievement.
- 1.3 This was a positive inspection which evaluated both quality indicators as 'Good'. The letter to parents identified four key strengths of the school. These were:
- The school's nurturing ethos, reflecting strong Gospel values, which promotes inclusive and supportive relationships across the school.
  - Children who are articulate, well behaved and respectful of each other. They are proud of their school and are keen to learn.

- Effective teamwork led by the headteacher and her senior leadership team. They empower all staff to engage in professional learning and research to improve experiences and outcomes for children.
- The school's approach to developing a culture of reading by providing a range of activities for children and their parents. This includes a well-stocked school library and an environment which is rich in books.

1.4 The letter to parents identified the following areas for improvement:

- Continue to develop consistently high quality learning and teaching approaches, which encourage children to lead their learning.
- Continue to establish effective planning, tracking and assessment procedures to ensure children are developing skills for learning, life and work.
- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy for all children.

1.5 Children's Services have an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. Actions to address the areas for improvement are contained within the school improvement plan. 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. James' Primary School.

## **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 will be addressed through the ongoing work of the school and the school's improvement planning procedures, which includes the creation of the annual school improvement plan 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's 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
13. **Climate Risk**: None

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## List of Background Papers

None

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*Children's Services*  
*MT*  
*14 September 2020*

**Author: Mairi Thomas, Education Manager tel: 0141 618 3994**

18 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St James' 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 school's nurturing ethos, reflecting strong Gospel values, which promotes inclusive and supportive relationships across the school.
- Children who are articulate, well behaved and respectful of each other. They are proud of their school and are keen to learn.
- Effective teamwork, led by the headteacher and her senior leadership team. They empower all staff to engage in professional learning and research to improve experiences and outcomes for children.
- The school's approach to developing a culture of reading by providing a range of activities for children and their parents. This includes a well-stocked school library and an environment which is rich in books.

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

- Continue to develop consistently high quality learning and teaching approaches, which encourage children to lead their learning.
- Continue to establish effective planning, tracking and assessment procedures to ensure children are developing skills for learning, life and work.
- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy for all children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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.

## 8. Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for St James' Primary School

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

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4561>.

### 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.

Lorraine Fisher  
HM Inspector