

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

**On: 12 March 2020**

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

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**Heading: Inspection of Heriot Primary School and Early Learning Class,  
Paisley**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Heriot Primary School and Early Learning Class was inspected by Education Scotland in October 2019 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 21 January 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 Heriot Primary School and early learning class the full inspection model was applied. 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 very positive inspection which evaluated leadership of change, learning, teaching and assessment, and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion as very good and raising attainment and achievement as good. The letter to parents identified several key strengths of the school. These were:
  - The leadership of the headteacher. This is resulting in the highly effective pace of change and improved outcomes for children across the school and nursery class.
  - Staff engagement in relevant professional learning, leadership and research opportunities linked to school and nursery improvement.

- Highly effective partnership working. This is having a positive impact on the wellbeing and confidence of children, staff and parents.
- The nurturing approaches across the nursery and primary school resulting in highly-motivated and engaged children who are making good progress in their learning.
- Teachers' creative approaches to numeracy and mathematics leading to children's increased confidence and motivation for learning.

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

- Continue to build on children's prior learning to raise attainment for all children across the curriculum.
- Continue to engage all staff in reflective and collaborative dialogue with colleagues from across the cluster and more widely to improve consistency in high quality learning and teaching across the school and nursery.

1.5 Children's Services have an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. The school and the service will prepare a short action plan (which will in turn feed into the School Improvement Plan) indicating how they will address the points for action in the report and will 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 Heriot Primary School and Early Learning Class; and
- note the effort of the young people, parents/carers and staff for the continuing high quality work which is reflected in the inspection report.

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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 two 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  
AH/KO  
17/02/20*

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21 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Heriot Primary School and Early Learning Childcare 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.

- The leadership of the headteacher. This is resulting in the highly effective pace of change and improved outcomes for children across the school and nursery class.
- Staff engagement in relevant professional learning, leadership and research opportunities linked to school and nursery improvement.
- Highly effective partnership working. This is having a positive impact on the wellbeing and confidence of children, staff and parents.
- The nurturing approaches across the nursery and primary school resulting in highly-motivated and engaged children who are making good progress in their learning.
- Teachers' creative approaches to numeracy and mathematics leading to children's increased confidence and motivation for learning.

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

- Continue to build on children's prior learning to raise attainment for all children across the curriculum.
- Continue to engage all staff in reflective and collaborative dialogue with colleagues from across the cluster and more widely to improve consistency in high quality learning and teaching across the school and nursery.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#). 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 Heriot Primary School and Early Learning Childcare Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
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>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: 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=2924>

### 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.

Marion Carlton  
HM Inspector