

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 23 May 2019

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Inspection of Riverbrae School and Nursery

1. Summary

- 1.1 Riverbrae School was inspected by Education Scotland in January 2019. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland in April 2019 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. Inspectors also assessed the nursery class with a focus on four quality indicators which were: leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; securing children's progress and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion.
- 1.3 Inspection findings indicate that the school and nursery needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. Two of the quality indicators were evaluated as 'weak'.

The letter to parents identified two key strengths of the school and nursery. These were:

- Caring and respectful relationships between children, young people and staff. This helps children and young people feel safe, valued and included.

- Supported by a range of partners, children and young people are achieving well in the wider community.

1.4 The letter to parents also identified areas for further improvement:

- Strengthen the leadership of the school and nursery to increase the pace of change. The senior leadership team need to provide clear direction for school and nursery improvement. In doing so, more leadership opportunities should be provided for children, young people and staff.
- Improve approaches to the assessment, tracking and monitoring of children's and young people's progress. Ensure there are clear processes in place which are used effectively by all staff so that children and young people can better achieve their full potential.
- Develop the curriculum across the school and nursery, taking due account of national guidance and expectations. In so doing, ensure that the curriculum enables children and young people to make sustained progress.
- Raise attainment and achievement across the school and nursery through increased expectations of what children and young people can achieve.

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 continued 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 Riverbrae School and Nursery Class.

3. **Background**

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

3.2 Riverbrae school and nursery opened in August 2017. It is a purpose built facility provided by Renfrewshire Council for children with additional support needs who previously attended Hollybush pre-5 centre; Kersland school, and Clippens school.

3.3 Her Majesty's Inspectors commended the Council for its investment in a high quality building which is highly suited to the needs of the children and young people who attend the school.

- 3.4 Despite a range of initial challenges in relation to the building work which were outwith the Council's control, the school and nursery have brought together children, staff and parents from three separate establishments and created a nurturing environment, with a committed and supportive parent council in place.
- 3.5 The report includes four recommendations for improvement. These will be addressed through the school's improvement plan, produced by the school and supported by children's services staff.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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

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23 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Riverbrae School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- Caring and respectful relationships between children, young people and staff. This helps children and young people feel safe, valued and included.
- Supported by a range of partners, children and young people are achieving well in the wider community.

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

- Strengthen the leadership of the school and nursery to increase the pace of change. The senior leadership team need to provide clear direction for school and nursery improvement. In doing so, more leadership opportunities should be provided for children, young people and staff.
- Improve approaches to the assessment, tracking and monitoring of children's and young people's progress. Ensure there are clear processes in place which are used effectively by all staff so that children and young people can better achieve their full potential.
- Develop the curriculum across the school and nursery, taking due account of national guidance and expectations. In so doing, ensure that the curriculum enables children and young people to make sustained progress.
- Raise attainment and achievement across the school and nursery through increased expectations of what children and young people can achieve.

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

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

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/1003658>

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 12 months 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.

Pamela Adamson
HM Inspector