



Community Services: Education



Follow-through Inspection of Clachan Primary School Argyll and Bute

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Follow-through Inspection of Clachan Primary School

1. The Inspection

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) published a report on Standards and Quality in Clachan Primary School in October 2006. Working with the school, the education authority prepared and made public an action plan in October 2006 indicating how they would continue to maintain the very high standard of education provided for pupils which was highlighted in the original report.

Arrangements in consultation with HMIE require that a follow through report is completed within two years of the initial report and, in the case of Clachan Primary School, this is the responsibility of the education authority.

A member of the education authority's Quality Improvement Team visited the school prior to the publication of this report to carry out a follow-through inspection. The visit assessed the extent to which the school had continued to maintain the very high quality of education provided for pupils

2. Continuous Improvement

Under the excellent leadership of the head teacher and with the hard work and commitment of staff and the community, the school had continued to provide a very high standard of education for all pupils.

Pupils' attainment in English language and mathematics continued to be very good and individual pupils are well supported in their learning through the quality of teaching and the knowledge of staff about their pupils.

The school had gained Eco Schools (Scotland) green flag and had been accredited with the highest level as a Health Promoting School. The school's commitment to and the pupils' understanding of education for sustainability was evident and effectively demonstrated in display around the school. A key feature was the integrated approach to sustainability and citizenship which permeates the curriculum.

Continuing very good practice was evident through the school's approaches to taking forward the development of Curriculum for Excellence. Staff were developing further their own reflective practices and sharing of good practice. These activities had supported improvements in teaching methodology and approaches. The authority and Learning and Teaching Scotland selected Clachan Primary to trial outcomes and experiences for Social Subjects. This work involved evaluation of the learning and teaching both by school staff and personnel from Learning and Teaching Scotland. The school had taken

forward interdisciplinary work eg farming theme related to Curriculum for Excellence Social Subjects outcomes and experiences. The pupils, staff and the community were involved in very good quality learning and teaching through these approaches and the pupils obvious enthusiasm for and knowledge of the subject was exemplary.

The school continues to have a very positive ethos of achievement and all pupils were motivated by their learning experiences. The head teacher and staff had continued to work hard to maintain good relationships with pupils and build upon the positive ethos of mutual respect and trust. There was evidence of effective teamwork and partnership working. Classroom, assistants, administrative, janitorial and catering staff continued to be actively involved in the life of the school and contributed effectively to the school's positive behaviour and anti-bullying policies.

The school had recently reviewed its vision values and aims. This process actively involved all stakeholders and an excellent example of parent partnership took place when pupils and parents together discussed their views and aspirations for Clachan Primary. The school continues to provide a creative environment for all pupils and to maximise all opportunities for pupils to achieve their full potential.

A creative example of delivering the curriculum had been achieved through the introduction of a ten week block of Forest Schools. The pupils were involved with a Forest School leader and the teaching staff in activities within the local forest to enrich their learning. Activities undertaken provided opportunities for science and expressive arts to be taught in the wider environment. This recent development has extended and enhanced the excellent curriculum provided.

The school continues to provide an inclusive ethos which is exemplary in meeting the needs of new pupils and integrating them successfully into the life of the school within its community.

Clachan Primary continues to build on the well established self evaluation process to ensure continuous improvement in all aspects of its work.

3. Conclusion

Community Services: Education will continue to monitor the work of the school as part of its procedures for ensuring quality.

Douglas Hendry
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Argyll and Bute Council
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