



Community Services: Education



Follow-through Inspection of Sandbank Primary School Argyll and Bute

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Follow-through Inspection of Sandbank Primary School

1. The Inspection

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) published a report on Standards and Quality in Sandbank Primary School in February 2006. Working with the school, the education authority prepared and made public an action plan in April 2006, indicating how they would address the main points for action identified in the original HMIE inspection report.

Arrangements in consultation with HMIE require that a follow-through report be completed within two years of the initial report. In the case of Sandbank Primary, this responsibility has been passed to 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. This visit assessed the extent to which the school has continued to improve the quality of its work, and evaluated progress made in responding to the main points for action in the initial report.

2. Continuous Improvement

Under the very effective leadership of the head teacher and with the hard work and commitment of all staff, the school had continued to improve in key areas of its work.

Commendably the school had achieved health accreditation at Level 3. Pupil Council members worked collaboratively with the head teacher to monitor the impact of the healthy school tuck shop. The school had achieved a second Eco school green flag in August 2007. During this session pupils were actively involved in working towards a third green flag. They enjoyed taking part in activities such as; measuring and recording light and water usage and monitoring paper waste in the school. Pupils had developed a greater understanding of the impact of people on places and the environment. They were able to take responsibility and make informed decisions about environmental and sustainable development issues.

3. Progress Towards the Main Points for Action

The inspection report published in February 2006 identified two main points for action. This section evaluates the progress made with each of the action points and the resulting improvements for pupils and other stakeholders.

3.1 Improve attainment in Gaelic language

The school had made very good progress in addressing this main point for action.

Pupils' attainment in Gaelic language had improved. Most pupils were now achieving appropriate national levels in reading and writing.

Staff had planned and implemented a programme of Gaelic discussion that extended and enhanced pupils' skills in listening and talking. Pupils at P1-3 were well supported by the classroom assistant during discussions.

The paired reading programme provided good opportunities for pupils to work collaboratively across stages. Older pupils helped younger pupils to develop fluency and vocabulary. The development of the use of Gaelic word banks and dictionaries had supported pupils in becoming more independent and enhanced opportunities for extended writing. Teachers had participated in staff development on writer's craft and improving literacy and this had improved the quality of pupils' learning experiences in these areas.

3.2 Implement plans to further develop staff skills in evaluation and reflection in order to consolidate and build on best practice in learning and teaching.

The school had made very good progress in addressing this main point for action.

Teachers had continued to develop a learning culture that promoted best practice in learning and teaching. They had participated in a two year initiative as part of an associated schools group. They had visited colleagues in their own school and in other schools in the area to observe best practice and to participate in reflective discussion. Teachers had become more proactive in identifying their own learning needs and appropriate professional development opportunities.

Staff made effective use of these discussions to share good practice, discuss pupils' progress and identify further opportunities to enhance pupils' learning experiences.

4. Conclusion

Overall, the school, with the support of the education authority, had made very good progress in meeting the main points for action contained in the report of February 2006.

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

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Argyll and Bute Council
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