



## **Community Services: Education**



# **Follow-through Inspection of St Andrew's Primary School Argyll and Bute**

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### **1. The Inspection**

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) published a report on Standards and Quality in St Andrew's Primary School in September 2006. Working with the school, the education authority prepared and made public an action plan in October 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 is completed within two years of the initial report and, in the case of St Andrew's 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. This visit assessed the extent to which the school was continuing 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 strong commitment and support of both the school and local communities, the school had continued to improve in key areas of its work.

Commendably the school had been accredited as a health promoting school at Level 3, the highest level. Staff, pupils and parents worked very effectively in partnership with the Bute Healthy Living Initiative and other local agencies in order to promote and sustain healthy and active lifestyles of all those within the school community.

Continuing good practice was also evident in the improvements that had been made within the school grounds. Pupils, parents and staff had worked hard to create and maintain an attractive garden area and outdoor classroom. This had provided very good opportunities for learning and teaching, using the improved school grounds as a stimulus for language, mathematics and science activities. The school had achieved a silver Eco school award and were now well placed to achieve green flag status.

### **3. Progress Towards the Main Points for Action**

The initial inspection report published in September 2006 identified three 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 To provide more opportunities for pupils to be actively involved in their learning and to develop skills as independent learners**

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this main point for action.

At all stages, pupils were taking more responsibility for aspects of their learning. They regularly worked together in groups to investigate and solve problems in a range of curricular areas. They were developing well as confident individuals and effective contributors, able to explain their thinking and ideas when working together or independently. They also had opportunities to evaluate each other's work and make suggestions for further improvements. In the early years children were benefiting from a broad range of appropriate and stimulating purposeful play experiences that encouraged them to be actively involved in their own learning.

#### **3.2 To ensure that the pace of learning is consistently appropriate for all pupils**

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this main point for action.

Teachers had worked hard to ensure that the pace of learning was now more consistently brisk and purposeful, enabling all learners to make appropriate progress. They now had higher expectations of pupils' achievements and had revised their practice to include a range of new strategies that accelerated pupils' learning. Pupils were now more involved in setting targets for their work and they were responding well to this increased level of responsibility.

As a result of teachers' hard work and the head teacher's very effective monitoring of pupils' progress, attainment in mathematics and English language had continued to improve.

### **3.3 To improve attainment in English language**

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this main point for action.

Pupils had benefited from regular opportunities to work collaboratively in groups. They talked and listened to each other with confidence and could offer their own opinions on a range of topics.

Attainment in English language had improved steadily with almost all pupils attaining appropriate national levels in listening, talking, reading and writing. Commendably, a significant number of pupils were now attaining these levels earlier than might normally be expected.

## **4. Conclusion**

The school, with the support of the education authority has made very good progress in meeting all of the main points for action contained in the report of September 2006.

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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