

The Highland Council

**Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee
18 November 2013**

Agenda Item	9.
Report No	CS 40/13

Education Scotland Reports – period 1st January 2013 to 1st October 2013

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report provides details on Education Scotland's inspections of schools in the Area during the period 1st January 2013 to 1st October 2013, for Members' scrutiny and monitoring.

1. Background

1.1 Introduction to Inspections

- 1.1.1 Education Scotland aims to provide assurance on the quality of Scottish education and promote improvement and innovation to enhance learners' experiences and lead to better outcomes. Their inspections also contribute to National Performance Framework reporting.
- 1.1.2 Each year, they inspect and report on the quality of education in a sample of pre-school centres, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, community learning and development services, colleges and residential educational provision. They also inspect the education functions of local authorities.
- 1.1.3 To support improvement, inspectors focus on the quality of children and young people's learning and achievement. They have a particular interest in the development of children and young people's skills and understanding in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, which enables access to the highest possible learning within a broad general education and beyond.
- 1.1.4 Details of all aspects of the work of Education Scotland along with all the reference documentation can be found on the Education Scotland website. Link: [Education Scotland](#)

2. Inspections Conducted

2.1

SCHOOL	AREA	INSPECTION DATE	NATURE OF INSPECTION	PUBLICATION DATE	ACTION
ROGART P.S.	Sutherland	20 May 2013	Routine	27 August 2013	Education Scotland Area Lead Officer along with the local authority will maintain contact to monitor progress.
BOWER P.S.	Caithness	10 June 2013	Routine	27 August 2013	Education Scotland will make no further evaluative visits in connection with this inspection.
HALKIRK P.S.	Caithness	17 June 2013	Routine	24 September 2013	Education Scotland will return to evaluate aspects of provision and the progress in improving provision within 12 months of publication of this letter.

2.2 Members are advised that as reports are published following inspection, they will be referred directly to Ward Business Meetings in the first instance.

In this way relevant Members will see each published report as they arrive in the relevant area, with the required degree of immediacy.

2:3 The relevant Education Scotland reports published during the period covered by this report are available through these links:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/RogartPSNCIns270813_tcm4-813648.pdf

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/BowerPSIns27-08-2013_tcm4-813718.pdf

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/HalkirkPSIns240913_tcm4-814948.pdf

3. Actions as a Result of Inspection

3.1 The Authority and Head Teacher are provided with both the report and a 'record of inspection findings' (RIF).

3.2 These documents evidence both good practice and areas for improvement and, using this, the school will adapt its school 'Improvement Plan' and report annually the impact on learners through the Standards and Quality Report.

4. Comparison

- 4.1 Members are advised that it is not possible to use Education Scotland reports to compare across schools, as the curriculum is now tailored by schools to their individual circumstances, within the overall quality indicators.
- 4.2 Furthermore, it is not possible to compare previous reports for a school with more recent reports. This is due to changes in the inspection focus from year to year.
Link:
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014_tcm4-809751.pdf
- 4.3 Consequently, reports have to be viewed as a single snap-shot of a school's performance, against a suite of national quality indicators as laid down in How Good Is Our School3.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee is invited to scrutinise and monitor Education Scotland reports through this report.

Designation: **Director of Education, Culture and Sport**

Date: **18th October 2013**

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