

The Highland Council
Skye, Ross & Cromarty Area Committee
5 February 2014

Agenda Item	10
Report No	SRC 7/14

Education Scotland Reports – period 26th November 2013 to 14th January 2014

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 26th November 2013 to 14th January 2014, for Members scrutiny and monitoring.

1. Introduction to Inspections

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.

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.

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.

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	NATURE OF INSPECTION	PUBLICATION DATE	ACTION
Tain Royal Academy	Ross and Cromarty	Routine	26 November, 2013	ES Area Lead Officer will discuss support with Highland Council. A further visit will take place within 18 months.

SCHOOL	AREA	NATURE OF INSPECTION	PUBLICATION DATE	ACTION
Milton Primary	Ross and Cromarty	Routine	14 January, 2014	ES Area Lead Officer will discuss support with Highland Council. A further visit will take place within 12 months.

- 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 Update Links to ES Website

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

[Tain Royal Academy](#)

In following this link, readers will have access to the full report in both English and Gaelic Medium and a parallel summary of the Self Evaluation indicators in both languages.

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/primsec/TainRoyalAcademyHighland.asp>

[A detailed action plan is in its final draft and is available on request from the Area Manager](#)

[Milton Primary](#)

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/primsec/MiltonPrimarySchoolHighland.asp>

- 2.3 Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school?*. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing. Here are the evaluations for the schools covered in this report:

Quality Indicator	Tain Royal Academy	Milton Primary	Milton Nursery
Improvements in performance	Weak	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Learners' experiences	Good	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Meeting learning needs	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
The curriculum	Satisfactory	Weak	Weak
Improvement through self-evaluation	Weak	Weak	Weak

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).

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.

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

Consequently, reports have to be viewed as a single snap-shot of a schools performance, against a suite of national quality indicators as laid down in How Good Is Our School 3.

5. Recommendations

The Area Committee is asked to scrutinise and monitor Education Scotland reports through this report.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

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Date: 22 January 2014