

The Highland Council
Skye, Ross & Cromarty Area
6 August 2014

Agenda Item	15
Report No	SRC 32/14

Education Scotland Reports – period 6 February to 1 July 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 6 February 2014 to 1 July 2014 for Members' scrutiny and monitoring.

1. Introduction to Inspections

- 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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	NATURE OF INSPECTION	PUBLICATION DATE	ACTION
Knockbreck Primary School	Ross and Cromarty	Routine	1 April 2014	No further action from ES.
St Clements School	Ross and Cromarty	Routine	10 June 2014	ES Area Lead Officer will liaise with Highland Council to build capacity in the school. A further visit will take place within 12 months.

SCHOOL	AREA	NATURE OF INSPECTION	PUBLICATION DATE	ACTION
Kiltearn Primary	Ross and Cromarty	Routine	1 July 2014	A "one off" report has been requested by 30 th September re management of ASN. See note below

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.

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

2.4 Update Links to ES Website

2.4.1 The relevant Education Scotland reports published during the period covered by this report are available through the following links.

2.4.2 Knockbreck Primary – Tain: This is a particularly strong report on the quality of education offered to the learners in the school across the 5 main indicators. The evaluation table indicates the strength of the school's performance against a national benchmark.

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

2.4.3 St Clements School: A detailed action plan has already been prepared and shared with local members on 16th June. There will also be intensive support from the link Quality Improvement Officer to assist with the school's improvement agenda over the 12 month period. Local members will have periodic updates on progress within the same period.

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

2.4.4 Kiltearn Primary: Due to the relatively late publication date, it has not been possible to brief local members face to face. It should be noted that apart from the interim report on one aspect of the school's operation due by the end of September, this is a very strong report (see table of evaluations) and demonstrates the quality of the service on offer to the young people and their parents in Kiltearn Primary and Nursery. The matter highlighted by the ES team has already been discussed and an action plan produced with school management and other support officers.

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

2.5 Quality Indicators

2.5.1 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?".

2.5.2 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	Knockbreck Primary	St Clements School
Improvements in performance	Very good	Weak
Learners' experiences	Very good	Satisfactory
Meeting learning needs	Good	Weak
The curriculum	Good	Weak
Improvement through self-evaluation	Good	Weak

Quality Indicator	Kiltearn Primary	Kiltearn Nursery
Improvements in performance	Good	Very good
Learners' experiences	Good	Very good
Meeting learning needs	Satisfactory	Good
The curriculum	Good	Good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Good	Good

2.5.3 Care Inspectorate gradings for Kiltearn Nursery are below:

Quality of care and support	Good
Quality of environment	Very good
Quality of staffing	Very good
Quality of management and leadership	Good

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 schools will adapt their school "Improvement Plan" and report the impact on learners annually 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. 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 School 3".

5. Implications

- 5.1 There are no resources, legal, equalities, climate change/carbon clever, risk, Gaelic or rural implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

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

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 21 July 2014

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