

The Highland Council
Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee
23rd September 2014

Agenda Item	20
Report No	CS/ 40/14

Education Scotland Reports – period 14th May 2014 to 21st August 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 14th May 2014 to 21st August 2014, for Members' scrutiny and monitoring.

1:0 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](#)

2:0 INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED

2:1

SCHOOL	AREA	INSPECTION DATE	NATURE OF INSPECTION	PUBLICATION DATE	ACTION
Halkirk P.S.	Caithness	11 June 2014	Follow-through	26 August 2014	Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with the report of 2013.

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/HalkirkPSIns240913_tcm4-814948.pdfink

2:4

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 school covered in this report:

Quality Indicator	Halkirk Primary School
Improvements in performance	n/a
Learners' experiences	n/a
Meeting learning needs	n/a
The curriculum	n/a
Improvement through self-evaluation	n/a

3:0 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.

4:0 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. The link below provides the advice note from Education Scotland for the session 2013-14:

Link: http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote20132014_tcm4-809751.pdf

The latest advice note in respect of session 2014-15 is provided through the link below, and Members will note the increased emphasis on "self-evaluation" by schools, and the targeted approach on issues for this session.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote201415_tcm4-832523.pdf

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".

5:0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

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