

The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee - 2 December 2014

Agenda Item	13
Report No	CIA/66 /14

Education Scotland Reports – period November 2013 to October 2014

Report by Director of Care & Learning

Summary

This report provides details on Education Scotland's inspections of schools in the Area during the period November 2013 to October 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 and 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

School	Inspection Date	Nature of Inspection	Publication Date	Action
Cauldeen Primary	May 2014	Routine	1 July 2014	Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.
Cannich Bridge Primary	June 2014	Routine (including Care Inspectorate)	26 August 2014	Education Scotland will work with The Highland Council to build capacity for improvement and maintain contact to monitor progress. A further inspection will be carried out within a year.

- 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:

[Cauldeen Primary School and Nursery Class](#)

[Cannich Bridge Primary School and Nursery Class](#)

- 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?](#) Quality indicators for the nursery class can be found in the publication [Child at the Centre](#). 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.
- 2.5 The Care Inspectorate publishes quality grades to inform people and the Scottish Government about the quality of care services. Awarding grades at inspections is aimed at encouraging providers to identify and address areas for improvement. The Care Inspectorate also uses the grades to ensure its inspection activity is targeted and proportionate. The grades at inspection are awarded against four quality themes, details of which can be found on the Care Inspectorate website.

2.6 **Cauldeen Primary and Nursery**

- 2.6.1 Evaluations were:

Quality Indicator	
Improvements in performance	good
Learners' experiences	very good
Meeting learning needs	good

- 2.6.2 Nursery class

Quality Indicator	
Improvements in performance	good
Children's experiences	very good
Meeting learning needs	good

- 2.6.3 The following aspects of the work of the school and nursery class were also evaluated.

Quality Indicator	
The curriculum	good
Improvement through self-evaluation	good

2.7 Canich Bridge Primary School

2.7.1 Evaluations were:

Quality Indicator	
Improvements in performance	weak
Learners' experiences	satisfactory
Meeting learning needs	weak

2.7.2 Nursery class

Quality Indicator	
Improvements in performance	good
Children's experiences	good
Meeting learning needs	good

2.7.3 The following aspects of the work of the school and nursery class were also evaluated.

Quality Indicator	
The curriculum	weak
Improvement through self-evaluation	weak

2.7.4 These are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class:

Quality of care and support	very 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). These documents evidence both good practice and areas for improvement and, using this, the schools will adapt their School Improvement Plans and report annually the impact on learners through the Standards and Quality Report.

3.2 Where it is deemed that as a result of inspection findings the school requires additional support and more time to make necessary improvements, the Education Scotland Area Lead Officer will work with The Highland Council to build capacity for improvement and will maintain contact to monitor progress. Education Scotland will return to carry out a further inspection within a year of publication of the inspection

findings and issue another letter to parents on the extent to which the school has improved.

4. Comparisons

- 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.

[Taking account of Curriculum for Excellence national expectations in inspections](#)

- 4.2 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.

5. Implications

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

6. Recommendations

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

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

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