

The Highland Council

Ross and Cromarty Committee – 12 January 2017

Agenda Item	8
Report No	RC/010/17

Education Scotland Report – Shieldaig Primary School and Nursery Class

Report by Area Care and Learning Manager (West)

Summary

This report provides details on Education Scotland's report of Shieldaig Primary School and Nursery Class of 23 August 2016.

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: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/>.

2:0 Inspection Conducted

2:1

School	Area	Inspection Date	Nature Of Inspection	Publication Date	Action
Shieldaig Primary School and Nursery Class	Ross and Cromarty	June 2016	Full	23 August 2016	Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with the report of 2016.

2:2 Members are advised that as reports are published following inspection, they will be referred directly to Members and may be discussed at Ward Business Meetings.

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 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.

Education Scotland evaluations are made on a 6-point scale as follows:

* Excellent/Very Good/Good/Satisfactory/Weak/Unsatisfactory

Education Scotland will make no further visits to the school in connection with the inspection letter of August 2016.

Quality Indicator	Shieldaig Primary School
Improvements in performance	good
Learners’ experiences	good
Meeting learning needs	very good

Quality Indicator	Shieldaig Nursery Class
Improvements in performance	good
Children’s experiences	good
Meeting learning needs	very good

Quality Indicator	Shieldaig School and Nursery Class
The curriculum	good
Improvement through self-evaluation	good

The visit identified the following key areas for improvement:

- Continue to develop children’s ability to talk about what they do well and what they could do to improve further.
- Continue to develop the use of the outdoor environment to enhance and extend children’s learning.

The visit identified the following key strengths:

- The perceptive and sensitive leadership shown by the headteacher in sharing her vision for the school.

- The teamwork shown by all staff in joining together to take improvement forward.
- The enthusiastic children who link their school well to their community.
- The school's success in supporting the needs of all children as individuals.

The full Education Scotland Report can be found [here](#).

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.

- 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.

The link below provides the advice note from Education Scotland for the session 2014-15: Link:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/i/genericresource_tcm4832425.asp?strReferringChannel=educationscotlandandstrReferringPageID=tcm:4-615801-64andclass=11+d86716

- 4.3** Consequently, reports should 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*.

In session 2015-16 inspection activity will reflect the most recent advice note which can be found here:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/i/genericresource_tcm4865189.asp

5. Implications

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

6:0 Recommendation:

The Area Committee is asked to continue to note the Education Scotland report on Shieldaig Primary School and Nursery Class of 23 August 2016.

Designation: Quality Improvement Manager (West)

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Date: 7 September 2016