

AGENDA ITEM NO 4

REPORT NO 367/15

SCHEDULE 1

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

22 SEPTEMBER 2015

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF CORTACHY PRIMARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

Each year Education Scotland inspects and reports on the quality of education in a sample of pre-school centres, primary schools, secondary schools and other education services. To support improvement, the inspection evaluates the quality of children and young people's learning and achievement. There is a key focus on 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.

The inspection team evaluates the school's capacity to improve and answer the following questions:

- How well do children learn and achieve?
- How well does the school support children to develop and learn?
- How well does the school improve the quality of its work?

Inspectors use quality indicators from '*How good is our school?*' to support evaluations and provide information on how the school can improve. They also indicate any continuing engagement activities. Cortachy Primary School and attached nursery class was inspected during the week beginning 18 May 2015. The inspection report was published on 25 August 2015 and can be found at:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CortachyPSNCINS250815_tcm4-867458.pdf

The report takes the form of a letter to parents, which provides a response to the questions highlighted above.

This inspection found the following key strengths:

- Confident children who enjoy their learning
- The positive and caring ethos for learning
- Partnerships with parents and the local community to support children's learning
- Opportunities for children to learn in the outdoors

The School and Education Scotland agreed that the school should:

- Ensure all children receive a broad and progressive curriculum as outlined in Curriculum for Excellence
- Improve approaches to how children are supported in their learning including ways their progress is tracked
- Develop approaches to self-evaluation which leads to improvements in learning, teaching and achievement
- Improve leadership at all levels

Education Scotland felt that the school needed additional support and more time to make the necessary improvements. They will make a further visit to the school to undertake a follow-through inspection in May 2016. The school will have planned intensive support planned by their link Quality Improvement Officer.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Cortachy Primary School are as follows:

Improvements in performance	Satisfactory
Learners' experiences	Good
Meeting learning needs	Satisfactory

Nursery Class

Improvements in performance	Weak
Children's experiences	Satisfactory
Meeting learning needs	Satisfactory

We also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the school and nursery class

The curriculum	Weak
Improvement through self-evaluation	Weak

Contact for further information:
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