



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 14 MAY 2024**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION (CONTINUING
ENGAGEMENT) OF ST PETER'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the outcomes of the recently published report on a Moray school following inspection revisit by Education Scotland.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all the functions of the Council as an Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) scrutinise and note the contents of this report and findings of Education Scotland following their inspection visit;**
- (ii) note that a clear and revised action plan is in place to acknowledge areas where progress has been made and in order to focus on areas for improvement requiring further attention;**
- (iii) note that support will continue from the Quality Improvement team in order to realise further improvements required; and**
- (iv) note that following future revisit from Education Scotland (anticipated April 2025), a further paper will be brought to Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee in order to provide update on school progress with improvements.**

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 When a school is inspected by Education Scotland and/or the Care Inspectorate a report is published which gives commentary on the school's performance. These reports are presented regularly to Committee, where possible at the first available opportunity after publication.
- 3.2 In November 2022 and as previously reported to Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 19 April 2023 (para 13 of minute refers), a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Peter's RC Primary School. During the visit, Education Scotland inspectors talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the Acting Headteacher and staff. Education Scotland gathered evidence to enable them to evaluate aspects of the quality of leadership and children's achievements. St Peter's RC Primary School was subject to a full inspection model visit spanning across five days in total.
- 3.3 The Education Scotland Inspection team use selected Quality Indicators (QIs) from "[How good is our school? 4th edition](#)" (HGIOS4), rated using the [six-point scale](#).
- 3.4 Education Scotland focus QIs for the Primary school (full inspection model inspection) are:

QI 1.3 Leadership of Change
QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment
QI 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement
QI 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion

Inspectors make evaluations of these QIs using the six-point scale. The first three of these QIs feed directly into the evidence base for the National Improvement Framework.

- 3.5 Full establishment inspections also include focus on Safeguarding and themes from other QIs to ensure Inspectors continue to capture the evidence needed to promote improvement and provide evidence to inform national policy development. These are not assigned a rating and are:

QI 2.2 Curriculum (Learning Pathways theme)
QI 2.7 Partnerships (Partnerships in evaluating the impact of parental engagement)

- 3.6 Through inspection in November 2022, St Peter's RC Primary School were graded as 'weak' across QI 1.3, 2.3, 3.2 and 3.1 as noted above. Areas for development were also agreed in relation to safeguarding. Education Scotland liaised with Moray Council thereafter regarding the school's capacity to improve and intimated their intention to carry out a further inspection of the school in discussion with Moray Council.
- 3.7 Following inspection, the Acting Head Teacher was supported in developing a comprehensive school improvement action plan with staff, in order to address

areas identified for improvement. The Quality Improvement Officer and Primary Advisor provided support to the school with positive changes implemented working together as a school community. Regular reporting to the Quality Improvement Manager and through quality improvement visits to the school, it was noted that key improvements had been made, led by the Acting Head Teacher and supported by all staff and where pertinent, children and their parents/carers.

- 3.8 In January 2024, Education Scotland's His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) returned to carry out a further inspection of St Peter's RC Primary School over three days. Inspection activities were focused on the areas of improvement agreed with the school and the local authority. Following review of these areas, Education Scotland HMIE were then able to find out about the progress the school has made since original inspection in November 2022 and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements.
- 3.9 The five areas for improvement forming focus of the January 2024 further inspection as agreed in November 2022 were as follows:
- Senior leaders and staff should work together to improve leadership across the school. In doing so, staff should support children, parents and partners to participate in evaluation activities that improves how the school works.
 - Staff should work together to improve the quality of learning and teaching. This includes ensuring children are actively involved in learning.
 - Staff should improve approaches to planning of learning, teaching and assessment. There is a need to ensure children's knowledge and skills build on what they know as they move through the school.
 - All staff should be involved in planning learning that supports better children with additional support needs. They should ensure that they set targets that help children make progress in their learning.
 - All staff should work together to have a clear focus on raising attainment of all children.
- 3.10 The Education Scotland Further Inspection Letter (published April 2024) can be viewed at:
- [Further Inspection Letter](#)
- 3.11 Education Scotland noted that overall, some progress had been made in all areas for improvement as noted in 3.9 above from original inspection in November 2022. However, across all five areas it was noted that further development should continue as planned where planned approaches and interventions in order to address key areas for improvement should also continue to be embedded across the school.
- 3.12 As a result of the further inspection in January 2024, Education Scotland HMIE note that the school has made some progress since the original inspection. Education Scotland HMIE will return to carry out a further

inspection of the school within one year of further inspection letter publication, anticipated around April 2025.

- 3.13 Following inspection, further review of the School Improvement Action Plan has followed to ensure key actions for improvement continue to be addressed by the school. This has been further supported by the Primary Advisor and Quality Improvement team.
- 3.14 As reported to Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 27 March 2024 (Federation Policy for Schools: [para](#) 6 of minute refers), St Peter's Primary School now has an interim pairing in place following the Acting Head Teacher taking up a permanent Depute Head Teacher post elsewhere in the local authority. The Head Teacher of St Thomas RC Primary School now has interim oversight as Head Teacher of both St Peter's RC Primary School and St Thomas RC Primary School following Head of Service enactment of exigencies of the service in February 2024. Under the leadership of the interim pairing Head Teacher, and supported closely by the Primary Advisor, the school improvement Action Plan continued to be progressed in line with required improvements identified by Education Scotland HMIE.
- 3.15 For reference, the Education Scotland HMIE Further Inspection Letter published in April 2024 following further inspection in January 2024 is contained within **Appendix 1**.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The report links to the 'Tackle Poverty and Inequality' priority as referred to in the Moray Council Corporate Plan. With regards to the 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan LOIP), (2) building a better future for our children and young people in Moray through equity of learning experience offered across our schools; supporting ambitious and confident children, able to reach their full potential.

(b) Policy and Legal

It is the duty of the local authority to secure improvement and the quality of school education which is provided in schools managed by Head Teachers and to raise standards of education (Section 3, 8 of Standards in Scotland Schools Act etc 2000).

This report relates to Section 66 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, which concerns the inspection of educational establishments.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

An interim pairing is in place with the Head Teacher of St Thomas RC Primary School in Keith, now also leading St Peter's RC Primary School on an interim pairing basis. This follows recruitment difficulties experienced in terms of Primary Head Teacher posts and with specific regard to appointment of denominational Head Teachers as noted in para 3.14 above, and reported to Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 27 March 2024 (Federation Policy for Schools: [para 6](#) of minute refers). The Acting Head Teacher continues to establish herself in post while leading forward school improvement actions identified, supported by all staff and identified central officers.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An Equality/Socio Economic Impact Assessment is not required as this report is to inform Committee on school performance following external scrutiny/validation activity.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

No climate change or biodiversity implications have been determined due to the scrutiny based nature of activities reported and no findings related to such implications contained herein.

(i) Consultations

Senior Officers in Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Equal Opportunities Officer, Human Resources Manager, Caroline O'Connor, Committee Services Officer and the interim paired Headteacher of St Peter's RC Primary School/St Thomas RC Primary School have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Committee is invited to scrutinise and note the contents of this report, noting that the action plan in place following inspection in November 2022 has been further revised in order to guide improvements in further areas noted by Education Scotland HMIE through their further inspection activities in January 2024.**
- 5.2 Following departure of the Acting Head Teacher in January 2024, an interim pairing with Head Teacher oversight with St Thomas RC Primary School has been formed under exigencies of the Education service by the Head of Education (Chief Education Officer).**
- 5.3 School improvement actions continue to be progressed with support from the local authority Quality Improvement team and Primary Advisor.**
- 5.4 Further inspection is anticipated around April 2025 in order to gauge progress with areas of school improvement being progressed.**

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Background Papers: [Further Inspection Letter \(April 2024\)](#)
[Inspection Report \(February 2023\)](#)
[Summarised Inspection Findings \(February 2023\)](#)
[Additional Inspection Evidence \(February 2023\)](#)
[How good is our school? 4th edition](#)
[Education Scotland six-point scale](#)

Ref: