



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF KNOCKANDO
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 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 scrutinise and note the contents of this report and findings of Education Scotland following their inspection visit.**

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 October 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Knockando Primary School. During their visit, Education Scotland inspectors talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the Headteacher and staff.
- 3.3 Knockando Primary School was subject to a short model inspection model visit spanning over three days in total.

3.4 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](#).

3.5 Education Scotland focus QIs for the Primary school (short model inspection) are:

QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment

QI 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement

Education Scotland Inspections also include focus on Safeguarding.

3.6 Following further dialogue between Education Scotland and the local authority, Education Scotland published Knockando Primary School’s Inspection Report on 28 November 2023 with the following gradings:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| QI 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment | Good |
| QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement | Satisfactory |

3.7 The inspection team found the following strengths in the school’s work:

- The confident, friendly children who demonstrate the school values well. They are engaged and enthusiastic learners.
- The teamwork of the acting headteacher, teachers and all staff. They work well together to develop positive relationships and to remove barriers children face in their learning.
- The effective approaches developed by the acting headteacher to assess children’s progress and support high-quality learning and teaching.

3.8 The inspection team agreed the following areas for improvement with the Head Teacher and Moray Education:

- Develop approaches to planning in all areas of the curriculum to ensure children build on what they already know as they move through the school. This will help ensure that all children experience activities which are set at the right level of difficulty.
- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy, ensuring all children make the best progress possible.

3.9 The Education Scotland inspection report and summary of inspection findings for the school can be viewed at:

- [Inspection Report](#)
- [Summarised Inspection Findings](#)
- [Additional Inspection Evidence](#)

3.10 Following inspection, Education Scotland have advised that they are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and will make no more visits in connection with the inspection. As a local authority we will continue to inform key stakeholders including parents/carers on the school’s progress through normal arrangements on reporting on quality of schools.

3.11 For reference, the Education Scotland HMIE visit report published in November 2023 following visit in October 2023 is contained within **Appendix 1**.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

Reflective of priorities within the Corporate Plan with particular regard to (People) in providing a sustainable education service aiming for excellence, progress in achieving better performance and improved inspection outcomes, empowering and raising aspirations. 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

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

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 Headteacher of Knockando Primary School have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Committee is invited to scrutinise and note the contents of this report, following a positive short model inspection visit as outlined above, to Knockando Primary School.

Author of Report: Willem Smit, Quality Improvement Officer

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

Ref: