



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 19 APRIL 2023**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION 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 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 action plan is in place to respond to the areas for improvement identified and that regular monitoring visits will take place by the QI team with support and challenge provided to aid improvement further; and**
- (iii) note that following future revisit from Education Scotland (anticipated February 2024), 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, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Peter's RC Primary School. During their visit, Education Scotland inspectors talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the Acting Headteacher and staff. St Peter's RC Primary School was subject to a full inspection model visit spanning over five days in total.

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](#).

- 3.3 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.

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)

- 3.4 Following ongoing dialogue between Education Scotland and the local authority, Education Scotland published St Peter's RC Primary School's Inspection Report on 21 February 2023 with the following gradings:

QI 1.3 Leadership of Change	Weak
QI 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Weak
QI 3.1 Wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Weak
QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Weak

3.5 The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- A staff team who have an understanding of the challenges faced by the community as a result of the pandemic and cost of living;
- Children across the school are focused and keen to learn. Children's interactions are respectful and supportive of each other; and
- Staff have created a welcoming, nurturing and caring ethos leading to positive relationships across the school community.

3.6 The inspection team agreed the following areas for improvement with the Acting Headteacher and Moray Education:

- 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.

3.7 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](#)

3.8 Following inspection, Education Scotland have advised that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. Education Scotland will liaise with Moray Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. It is of particular note that the Acting Head Teacher had been in post for 5 weeks at the point of the inspection. Quality Improvement (QI) team officers are working closely with the school with a clear action plan in place to respond to the areas for improvement identified at 3.6 above. Regular monitoring visits will take place by the QI team with support and challenge provided to aid improvement further.

3.9 Education Scotland will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of the inspection letter (anticipated on or around February 2024). Education Scotland will discuss with Moray Council the details of this inspection and when they return to inspect the school they will once again write to parents/carers informing them of the progress the school has made.

- 3.10 As a result of inspection outcome, an action plan has been developed in partnership with the Acting Head Teacher and local authority officers in order to prioritise key actions now required. Since November 2022, key actions have progressed, with support from the Primary Advisor and Quality Improvement Officer linked with the Associated Schools Group.
- 3.11 For reference, the Education Scotland HMIE visit letter published in February 2023 following visit in November 2022 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 (3) provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence and (4) day to day service delivery in line with council values of ambitious, improving and responsive. 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 Council 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 8 of Standard in Scotland Schools Act 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, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer 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, further noting that an action plan is in place with a number of key improvement areas having already progressed in relation to the November 2022 inspection of St Peter's RC Primary School. Ongoing local authority support and challenge of school improvement activities will continue with further Education Scotland revisit anticipated in February 2024.**

Author of Report: Stewart McLauchlan, Quality Improvement Manager

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

Ref: SPMAN-1315769894-397 / SPMAN-1315769894-396