



## PROGRESS ON THE MAIN POINTS FOR ACTION

**Head of Muir Primary School was inspected in May 2007 as part of a national sample of primary education. The school received a very positive report with a number of key strengths identified. As a result of the high performance, the strong record of improvement and the very effective leadership of the school, HM Inspectors decided to make no further visits in connection with the inspection.**

Her Majesty's Inspectors identified four main points for action which the school and the authority have addressed jointly.

As part of the HMIE follow through process, Falkirk Council Education Services were asked to evaluate the progress made by the school in taking forward the recommendations and publish a report on progress to parents.

### Continuous Improvement

Soon after the inspection, the head teacher, Mr Barrie, was seconded to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) for five months, and Ms Jill Stocks, depute head teacher at Denny Primary School was appointed as acting head teacher. Under the leadership of Mr Barrie and Ms Stocks the school has made very good progress in meeting the recommendations made in the HMIE report in September 2007.

Members of the management team including Ms Ann Kilpatrick, depute head teacher and principal teachers Ms Linda Gibson and Ms Donna Ferguson have taken forward with the teaching and support staff a planned and systematic approach to the continuous improvement agenda.

The school has been supported and monitored throughout by the Quality Improvement and Curriculum Support Teams through meetings with the headteacher, staff and pupils, classroom observations and scrutiny of documentation.

### Attainment 5-14

Attainment at Head of Muir Primary was good at the time of the inspection. Overall attainment continues to be good with significant progress made in writing. Many pupils at all year stages attain levels above those expected for each year stage.

Progress with each of the action points is detailed below.

#### Action Point 1

*Ensure that all nursery children are appropriately challenged in their learning*

Children have become more confident in the use of ICT in the nursery class.

Websites for numeracy, literacy and problem solving across the curriculum have been identified and are used as planned and free play activities within the playroom. The smart board is used daily by the children to record days of the week and weather.

The nursery class is timetabled within the computer suite and this dedicated time has developed children's skills and confidence in using hardware.

The continued use of active learning methodologies has promoted the development of co-operative tasks in all areas of the nursery. The depute head teacher has worked with groups of more able pupils to develop their language and maths skills.

Staff provide more focused development of activities for small groups including theme based activities to support early literacy and numeracy.

Senior pupils from have become involved in helping nursery children with some nursery projects e.g. the Eco group on litter pick and planting their vegetable garden. This has encouraged the children to co-operate with their peers as well as with older children.

Nursery children have been actively involved in creating an interactive year book to share their experiences with parents. During the current session this has included the addition of spoken commentary and discussion involving groups of children.

**The school has made very good progress with this action point.**

#### Action point 2

*Continue to encourage the development of pupil-led incentives to support healthy eating in school*

The Health Promoting School Group comprising pupils P2 - 7, staff including representation from catering services, community dietician and parents was established to take health initiatives forward. The group plays an active part in the life of the school.

The group has been responsible for taking forward a number of key initiatives including an initial review of the tuck shop.

The school promotes every possible opportunity for pupils to participate in sporting events e.g. athletics for P6, P7 Olympics, rugby tournament, Big Fit Walk, Walk to School Week, annual

sponsored events – keep fit, street dance, active school sessions including cycle training, football, touch rugby, and taster sessions in basketball and tennis.

The school has been working in partnership with parents and delivered various workshops on key issues such as healthy food options, sexual health awareness, bullying and emotional wellbeing.

The school continues to develop its health promoting curriculum and provides Continuous Professional Development opportunities for all staff. The school participated in the Denny Cluster pilot 'Resilience Building Programme' and introduced the resource 'Creating Confident Kids' as part of its Personal and Social Development programme throughout the school.

The school was awarded its Health Promoting School accreditation at Level 2 in November 2007. Four categories were evaluated as very good and five categories evaluated as excellent.

**The school has made very good progress with this action point**

#### Action point 3

*Continue to improve attainment in English language and mathematics*

Active learning methodologies have been adopted throughout early years and in some curricular areas this has been developed throughout the school.

Working parties have developed guidelines on active learning and storyline development.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

Throughout the school the move from reading scheme to novels and extended texts and the introduction of new reading strategies such as 'Reading Detectives' has continued. A new maths resource has been introduced at the early stages. This has had a very positive impact on the pace of learning

The school had originally introduced learning logs to enhance the homework experience. This has been developed further to take account of continuity in learning experiences, Thinking Hats activities and listening and talking skills.

Staff, pupil and parent feedback on learning logs continues to be very positive - children enjoy homework much more and the standard of presentation is consistently high. Consequently, pupils are being encouraged to become independent learners.

**The school has made very good progress with this action point**

### Action point 4

*Continue to review the roles of the senior management team to focus more clearly on developing the curriculum and raising attainment*

The remits for head teacher, depute head teacher and principal teachers were reviewed to ensure balance across school. Each remit has a clear departmental focus on attainment and quality assurance with leading learning and teaching central to all the senior management team's role.

Target groups were identified and supported throughout school by the Senior Management Team. As a result children requiring additional support have been encouraged to meet their targets and achieve their potential.

The process of pupil sampling by interview has provided a much clearer overview of what actually happens in class. Children can explain how lessons/activities have been developed - discuss their involvement in setting targets and goals and how they have been involved in assessing and evaluating their own and others' work.

Pupils have become more reflective and recognise the value of sharing work with others in order to share learning.

Peer observation groups were established. Staff were organised into trios and observed both partners with the initial observation focused on the use of ICT in particular, interactive whiteboard. Sessions were then organised to allow staff to feedback to each other and share their experiences identifying good practice.

**The school has made very good progress with this action point**

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For further information on this report or the Council's strategy for Raising Achievement please contact the Headteacher or

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Further copies of this report and the original HMIe report are available from the school or on the HMIe website at [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk)

Falkirk Council Education Services are committed to open communication that achieves shared understanding and helps overcome barriers. This leaflet can be made available in other languages, in Braille, large print or on audio tape. Please contact 01324 506600 for further information.



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**LEARNING TO ACHIEVE**  
A Strategy for Raising Achievement

Follow Through Report on the Inspection of



**Head of Muir Primary School**  
September 2009



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