

## **S22. Education Scotland Inspection Report - California Primary School**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which summarised the findings of Education Scotland's inspection of California Primary School and Nursery class, carried out in June 2016. A copy of the inspection findings and Education Scotland's published letter to parents were attached to the report. Tony Bragg provided an overview of the report.

The committee sought an explanation of the comments relating to curriculum development and reliance on resources. Tony Bragg stated that the school used Big Maths which was highly structured and included resources with frequent testing. However, this did not fully take account of the learning outcomes of curriculum for excellence (CfE). He advised that the complexity of CfE experiences and outcomes presented a challenge. Schools were working on how to pick these out while having a structured curriculum without having received much guidance from Education Scotland. The Significant Aspects of Learning had only been published recently and schools could now start to develop the curriculum around these.

Members asked why this resource was being used if it was incompatible with CfE which had been in place for many years. David Mackay stated that the school had implemented CfE and used Big Maths to complement this work but had become too focussed and needed to shift to include it in the wider learning journey. This would eliminate the overreliance on Big Maths.

The committee asked about the use of joint headship. David Mackay stated that the head teacher recognised the points raised by the inspectors and work was being undertaken to address these. He felt that the shared headship was positive for California Primary School as it helped to address the challenge faced by smaller schools to network with other schools. On a day to day basis it was now easier for colleagues at the schools to share practice and expertise.

Members asked about the role of continuous professional development in relation to CfE for staff. David Mackay stated that there had been a comprehensive offering available. It would be included in the school's action plan to look at the uptake of this from the school. The Council's Service Manager - Broad General Education would soon be in place and this would bring better support for schools. Tony Bragg stated that the membership of the Team Around the School was determined in order to provide support in key areas and that it was the first time a parent had been included on the Team Around the School.

### **Decision**

**The committee requested that the Director of Children's Services:-**

- (1) reports back to the next Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the Action Plan, and**

- (2) provides a further report to the Scrutiny Committee following Education Scotland's further inspection which will take place within one year of the original inspection.**