



PROGRESS ON THE MAIN POINTS FOR ACTION

Continuous Improvement

Following the inspection, the school had major changes to the management team including a change of headteacher and deputy headteacher. Mrs Pat Cassells took up the post of acting headteacher in August 07 and was appointed as permanent headteacher later in the term. Children's Services supported the school and the new headteacher during this period of transition by appointing Ms Beverley Mitchell as an additional temporary DHT. Mrs Cassells has been in post for 17 months including the term as acting headteacher.

In this time Mrs Cassells has earned the respect of pupils, staff and parents and has been pro-active in taking forward the action plan. She has been supported by her deputy Mrs Ros Waddell and principal teacher Mrs Elaine Harley. Ms Mitchell has now been appointed as a second principal teacher.

Staff are committed to improving the school and reflecting on different approaches to teaching and learning. The learning experiences within the nursery are well led by the Senior Early Years Officer, Mrs Ostachinni. Progress in meeting the recommendations has been monitored and supported by the Quality Improvement Manager and supported by the authority's curriculum support teams.

The new district inspector visited the school in March as part of a series of visits to schools across Falkirk Council.

Attainment 5-14

Overall attainment for reading, writing and mathematics continues to be good and the school is maintaining a positive trend. Most pupils are achieving appropriate national levels of attainment and higher attainment has improved in writing.

Action Point 1

Improve aspects of the curriculum in order to raise further pupils' attainment

The school has reviewed approaches to topics and introduced storyline approaches at various stages. This approach enables pupils to develop meaningful language and expressive arts skills through a historical or topical project. P5 have studied famous Scottish characters such as Wallace and Bruce and P3 completed interesting work based on a Farmer's Market.

Pupils have had the opportunity to take part in enterprise projects such as an Art Gallery in P2 and a World of Work Day in p7.

The use of ICT is a strength across the school and all classes including the nursery have access to a Smartboard.

The school and nursery class received Health Promotion accreditation at level 2 in June 2007.

The school is well placed to review the whole school curriculum in line with the national initiative a Curriculum for Excellence.

Good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.



Bowhouse Primary School was inspected in November and December 2006 as part of a national sample of primary education. The nursery class was also inspected and has been reported on separately.

Her Majesty's Inspectors identified four main points for action which the school and the authority have addressed jointly. Progress in the nursery class is included in this report.

As part of HMIE follow through process Falkirk Council Children's services were asked to evaluate the progress made by the school in taking forward the recommendations and publish a report on progress to parents and carers.



Action Point 2

Review the choice of activities and level of challenge to ensure that the learning needs of all pupils are met.

An additional teacher was appointed to the school, as part of an authority wide initiative, to support pupils from nursery to P3. The teacher works in the school for part of the week and supports children in developing their literacy and numeracy skills through active learning.

Pupils have more opportunities to work in pairs and groups and to learn through activities. Pupils have been enthusiastic about their learning logs.

Learning logs have been introduced throughout the school to vary approaches to homework.

Staff from Grangemouth High School and library services have provided additional support for pupils in P7.

Very good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.



FURTHER INFORMATION

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

The Communications Officer
Falkirk Council
Children's Services
McLaren House
Marchmont Avenue
Polmont FK2 0NZ
Tel 01324 506600

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

Falkirk Council Children's 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.

designed by communications unit corporate and neighbourhood services falkirk council



Action Point 3

Review approaches to assessment to meet the needs of individual pupils.

The school uses a range of assessment strategies to identify and support pupils. This includes baseline assessment in the nursery and early stages, standardised testing at P2 and P5 and national 5-14 assessments throughout the school.

A programme of paired reading takes place throughout the school where older pupils support younger pupils in practising their reading skills.

Literature Circles piloted at P6 have now been introduced from P3-P6 and this approach is having a positive impact on children's enjoyment and attainment. Regular tracking meetings are in place to discuss the progress of individual pupils.

There is very good liaison between the nursery class and P1 to ensure that children continue to make good progress in their learning.

Very good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.



Action Point 4

Review whole school approaches to monitoring and evaluating the quality of provision.

As there had been changes to the senior management team, the authority enhanced the management capacity of the school by appointing an additional DHT, for a period of 15 months. This improved the capacity of the school to take forward a number of initiatives.

The senior management team have developed more rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school and the nursery class. This includes the promotion of good attendance.

Teaching staff take part in meetings where they discuss learning and teaching approaches. They also have the opportunity to work alongside other teachers and share practice.

Very good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.



LEARNING TO ACHIEVE
A Strategy for Raising Achievement

Follow Through Report on the Inspection of



Bowhouse Primary School
April 2009



Falkirk Council
Children's Services



Falkirk Council
Children's Services