



PROGRESS ON THE MAIN POINTS FOR ACTION

Easter Carmuir Primary School was inspected as part of a national sample of primary education, the report being published in March 2011. The school received a very positive report with a number of key strengths being identified.

Her Majesty's Inspectors identified 3 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 and to publish a report on progress to parents.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Since publication of the HMIe report, the school has taken forward a planned and systematic programme of improvement. The school has, consequently, made very good progress in taking forward the recommendations made by HMIe in their report.

ACTION POINT 1:

Continue to look for ways to engage parents purposefully in their children's learning

The Head Teacher sets high expectations of parental involvement and continues to ensure that this remains a school priority.

Strong links have been established between the school and its parents/carers. The school has worked hard to establish a wide range of strategies in so doing.

Parents are encouraged to find out how their children are progressing. In the Nursery Class, profiles are shared with parents. They, in turn, find the Nursery very helpful in answering questions about their children's progress. The Nursery class's 'stay and play' events had been particularly successful, with fathers sometimes also participating.

Learning profiles and blogs ensure that parents are kept up-to-date with their children's learning. Primary 6 pupils have completed homework electronically through use of Glow, the online community for Scottish schools. Meanwhile, pupils in Primary 7 put pieces of their writing on the blog and have encouraged their parents to use the blog to keep updated on children's progress. Photographs of pupils' learning are used by staff in the Enhanced Provision to engage with parents.

The school ensures that pupils are encouraged to bring parents to school events, an approach which parents see as non-threatening. Parents are kept up to date with progress in their children's learning through the school's open-door policy. They and members of their extended families engage readily not only with the school's management but also with their children's class teacher.

A recent Health Week has generated considerable interest from parents, especially those with children in the Early Years, while a recent Internet Safety event for parents had created considerable interest and had been very well attended.

The Parent Council is very active in promoting and supporting the school. It works closely with the school's management to arrange events for parents.

Parents of children with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are encouraged to contribute to these each term.

Very good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.

ACTION POINT 2

Continue to develop opportunities to encourage children to take more responsibility for planning aspects of their own learning.

Children put their best work in individual profiles, covering literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing. They take a pride in their work. The profiles are reviewed by both staff and parents, and are passed from year stage to year stage as children progress through the school. This helps to ensure that children's development and learning move forward.

The Pupil Council's suggestions are frequently acted upon by the school's management. The Suggestion box system, linked to rewards, works well and engages large numbers of pupils.

Children have also had a significant voice in deciding how the outdoor learning area should be developed.

The school's House system is effective. Its straightforward nature appeals to pupils.

Planning in the Nursery allows children to make choices based on their interests. Children in the primary school are also able regularly to make choices about their learning, which helps maintain enjoyment.

Homework also involves children in making choices from time to time, which enables parents to be involved in the process.

Children increasingly make judgements about their own work and that of other children. This has improved their skills and confidence in identifying and meeting targets. Children's confidence had also increased through the Champions for Enterprise initiative, which improves children's life-skills.

Children throughout the school, including the Enhanced Provision and the Rainbow Room, now stay on task more and are respectful to staff and to others as a result of the Rights Respecting School initiative.

Good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation, building on a position of significant strength at the time of the Inspection.



FURTHER INFORMATION

ACTION POINT 3:

Develop the use of the school environment to enable more outdoor learning

Children appreciate and are proud of their outdoor learning area. They enjoy gardening and, in particular, working in the vegetable garden from which they had cooked produce and had won a competition to visit a prestigious restaurant in Edinburgh.

Primary 7 pupils have developed a pride in their 'eco pod', a learning space where they can learn more about the environment.

Children had enjoyed the Communities Along the Carron project, further raising awareness of their local area, including the River Carron. Pupils also take responsibility for their local environment through a range of activities, e.g. Primary 7 pupils' growing interest in ethically-produced food, and pupils paint-spraying instances of dog-fouling.

Outdoor learning links to the curriculum were at an early stage but the school is well-placed to take these forward.

Teachers had prepared, and were beginning to use, well-resourced packs to help them make best use of the outdoor area as a place for learning.

Good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation, building on a position of significant strength at the time of the Inspection.

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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

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



**Easter Carmuir's
Primary School**

April 2013



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