

Your Ref:

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08 December 2017

All Parents and Carers of Pupils at
Troqueer Primary School

Head of Education

Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning

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Dear Parent / Carer

LETTER REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF TROQUEER SCHOOL SINCE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT OF DECEMBER 2016

Troqueer Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in June, 2015. The inspection focussed on: 1) How well children learn and achieve; 2) How well the school supports children to develop and learn and 3) How well the school improves the quality of its work. Inspectors engaged the school in a continuing engagement visit in October, 2016. Following an update of progress in October 2017, Education Scotland disengaged as a result of the good progress made by the school.

As part of the quality reporting arrangements of Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning, Dumfries and Galloway Council, I am writing to inform you of the progress made by Troqueer School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in December 2016. This letter sets out actions taken by the school in addressing Education Scotland's recommendations.

Develop consistency in learning and teaching approaches across the nursery and primary stages to raise children's attainment.

Children in the nursery continue to be happy and increasingly motivated. They play a more significant role in contributing to their Personal Learning Plan (PLP). The appointment of a Nursery Manager in March 2017 has ensured that the PLP is a focus of each session. The children now understand the next steps to take their learning forward. There have been improvements to the learning environment, with a greater range of activities available, enhancing learning opportunities. Collaboration with Primary 1 and Primary 2 Teachers has further enhanced this development.

Attainment across the school continues to improve. A new strategy of target setting has been implemented, facilitating stronger links with parents, in response to parental feedback, and has been well received. Teachers have increased confidence in planning to provide relevant challenge and support. The school is now engaged in moderation of achievement across the cluster in order to further enhance staff confidence.

Increase the pace of improvements to the curriculum across both the primary and nursery stages.

The Vision, Values and Aims have been reviewed through a robust process involving pupils and staff and is in final consultation with parents. This has, in turn, impacted on the rationale for the curriculum, and local contexts are now drawn upon to enhance learning experiences. Revised planning and assessment provides progression and teaching staff are able to use these aspects to more effectively evaluate learning. Staff better understand the importance of skills development within the curriculum. The school is developing reliable evaluation of skills, in order to gain a greater understanding of how skills impact on progression in learning.

In the Nursery, planning shows a greater focus on developing literacy and numeracy through improved questioning and an understanding of which skills are being developed. Further opportunities to extend early writing are now planned.

Ensure that learning needs are all met

Regular attainment meetings between teachers and senior management, reflecting on improved differentiation in learning demonstrates increased challenge for most children, including higher attaining children. Most pupils are making appropriate progress. Support strategies in learning overviews, enhance transition to other classes. Senior management review and monitor interventions for impact. Teaching staff should now continue to build capacity to analyse data to inform further improvements in attainment.

Troqueer School demonstrates a good capacity for future improvement. Staff are more effective in evaluating progress and the school is making important steps forward. This is the result of the hard work and commitment of the Headteacher, staff and children. I wish to congratulate all within the school community on their progress over the last year.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Brydson
Head of Education