

Your Ref:

Our Ref: DISTRICTWEST/TWYNHOLM PS\  
HMIE/LET001-EG/GB/RL

6 June 2018

**Children, Young People & Lifelong Learning**  
122-124 Irish Street  
Dumfries  
DG1 2PB

To:

**All Parents and Carers of Pupils at Twynholm Primary School**

Any enquiries please contact  
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Dear Parent/Carer

## **LETTER REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF TWYNHOLM PRIMARY SCHOOL SINCE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT OF MAY 2017**

Twynholm School was inspected by Education Scotland in February 2017. The inspection focussed on: learning, teaching and assessment; the curriculum; young people's attainment and achievements and leadership and management.

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 Twynholm School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in May 2017. The report highlighted four main aspects for development. This letter sets out actions taken by the school in addressing these points.

### **Improve the curriculum and approaches to assessment to raise attainment for all children.**

The school has continued to improve the Mathematics & Numeracy curriculum through the continued development of the Number Talks programme. This programme works to develop mathematical reasoning. Maths is assessed on an ongoing basis by class teachers and by pupils and is also now formally assessed at the beginning and end of each year. These assessments ensure that children's progress and skills continue to improve and allow the school to identify any gaps in learning. Within English & Literacy, development work on Reading now ensures regular focus on comprehension and the skills needed to interpret tasks. This aspect is also regularly assessed to ensure progression.

Next steps: The school will continue to improve assessment through regular moderation and increased familiarity with benchmarks to improve understanding of Curriculum for Excellence levels.

### **Improve approaches to self-evaluation involving stakeholders to ensure continuous improvement.**

The school continues to improve self-evaluation through regular discussion and meetings. All staff understand that self-evaluation is an integral part of improving the school community. Opportunities for parents to share their views are regularly included in the monthly newsletters. The school operates an open-door policy and parents feel comfortable about sharing concerns/ideas with staff and with the Parent Council. Concerns/ideas are discussed and acted upon quickly; for example, the recent updating of the school's anti bullying policy. Children are included in self-evaluation through various pupil groups and regular meetings between the HT and groups of children. Staff use a range of data effectively to ensure interventions are planned, appropriate and focused on raising attainment. Effective use is made of data and research to improve school performance; for example, the use of Number Talks to raise attainment in mathematics; and increased physical activity throughout the school day to promote health & wellbeing.

Next steps: The school will continue to develop ongoing communication with parents and other stakeholders on areas of school improvement.

### **Ensure children's knowledge and skills across learning are developed in a progressive way to build on their prior learning.**

The school uses planning, Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes and benchmarks to ensure skills and learning are built upon. Teachers meet to discuss planning and the work to be covered prior to each topic to ensure progression in children's learning. Success criteria are shared with the children who are encouraged to think about what they have done well and what they could do next to improve. Regular meetings with groups of children and the HT further enable an overview of work covered and skills progressed. Staff regularly moderate examples of children's work together.

Next steps: Continue to build the children's ability to peer and self-assess their work.

### **Build on partnership working to develop children's employability and enterprise skills.**

The school continues to develop strong partnerships with outside agencies to develop children's skills for learning, life and work. Examples of these partnerships have included Sustrans, where the school has developed children's ability to manage a bike safely; and working with the Permaculture Society of Scotland through which children have worked to design and create a new school garden. Partners are involved in joint planning to support delivery of their work in partnership with the school. The school continues to work closely with the local Rotary Group, including participation in the Youth Speaks Competition, the Spelling Bee and the Inter School Quiz. The school rationale encourages a wide variety of skills to develop children's employability, including co-operation, problem solving and creativity.

Next steps: The school will work to include partners in the evaluation of joint work. Twynholm Primary School demonstrates good capacity for future improvement. 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