

**Children, Young People & Lifelong Learning**

122-124 Irish Street

Dumfries

DG1 2PB

Your Ref:

Our Ref: DISTRICT\INFO\QI\INDICES\ES\REPORTS\  
A&E\BEATTOCK PS\LET001-GB\EB\RL

27 June 2019

To:

**All Parents and Carers of Pupils at  
Beattock Primary Nursery**

Any enquiries please contact

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Dear Parent / Carer

**LETTER REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF BEATTOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL SINCE  
EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT OF 26 JUNE 2018**

Beattock Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in May 2018. The inspection focussed on: leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion and children's attainment and achievements.

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 Beattock Primary School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in June 2018. The report highlighted three main aspects for development. This letter sets out actions taken by the school in addressing these points.

**Continue to improve attainment in literacy and numeracy. In particular to improve the quality of children's writing as identified by the school.**

Beattock Primary School maintains its focus on raising attainment for all. To this end, staff across the school have embarked on 'Closing the Literacy Gap' training. This has proven very successful, with children across the school benefitting from new teaching and learning ideas. The school continues to work with its cluster partners to share learning and teaching approaches and to look at standards. Staff have been involved in activities at school, cluster and authority level that have helped to develop a shared understanding of pupil progress. Writing was identified by the school as an area for improvement. Therefore, this has been the focus for staff and curricular development across the year. The school has identified improvement in the quality of pieces the pupils are producing. Work continues to enhance programmes of learning in literacy based on national Curriculum for Excellence benchmarks.

Next session, the school will continue to work with its cluster partners to review standards in both literacy and numeracy. Staff will also work to ensure that new teaching and learning approaches are embedded across the curriculum. The school will continue to implement and extend effective literacy and numeracy interventions to improve attainment for all. Staff across the school will review learning and teaching methods in numeracy and training opportunities will offered. The most effective teaching techniques will then be identified to support staff in delivering maths lessons of the highest quality.

**Continue to involve children in setting learning targets, planning their learning and documenting progress in their learning.**

Pupils across the school can identify the next steps in their learning. Clear evidence of learning and progress can be found at every stage and both staff and pupils can talk about what this learning looks like. The purchase of mobile Wi-Fi and iPads this session means that the school will be ready to introduce electronic Personal Learning Plans next academic session. This technology will be used as a method to further involve pupils in setting their learning targets, to document their progress towards achieving them and as means of sharing this information with parents and carers.

Staff will look at what other schools are doing to identify effective methods of profiling and best practice and then consider ways of capturing the children's learning. Over the coming academic session, they will introduce the use of iPads and trial these methods.

**As planned continue to involve all nursery practitioners in self-evaluation activities which will inform future improvements to teaching approaches and the curriculum.**

The school has a clear self-evaluation calendar that ensures reflection is on-going and robust and change is taken account of. Throughout the year, staff across the school engage in professional reflection based on standards set out by the Scottish Government. Self-evaluation within the nursery and school is an ongoing process. Parents, carers and pupils are regularly asked to share their views through the use of question boards. Views are then taken account of and whenever possible, acted upon; for example, a parent's suggestion for a 'cosy story corner' in the nursery and a pupil idea for a 'What made me smile?' display. Throughout the school, there is evidence of self-evaluation taking place and pupil, parent and carer voice making a difference.

Next session, time will continue to be set aside for staff to engage and reflect on this process. Evidence and information gained through self-evaluation activities will be used to inform future developments and approaches to learning, teaching and the curriculum. Beattock Primary School continues to demonstrate very good capacity for future improvement. This is the result of the hard work and commitment from the Acting Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher, staff and children. I wish to congratulate all within the school community on their progress over the last year.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Brydson  
Acting Director, Children, Young People & Lifelong Learning