
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	10 March 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/13/20/MR
Contact Officer:	Michael Roach	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	Education Scotland Report on St Michael's Primary School		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Education & Communities Committee of the recent Education Scotland inspection of St Michael's Primary School. The inspection focused on progress being made within St Michael's Primary School in improving learning and teaching and raising attainment/securing children's progress.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 St Michael's Primary School was inspected in September 2019, under the Education Scotland's short model. The inspection focused on progress being made within the school, nursery class and centre to improve learning and teaching, to raise attainment, to secure progress and to close the poverty-related attainment gap.

2.2 The report published in January 2020 outlines the positive practices and interventions that are having an impact on improving outcomes for learners within the school, nursery class and centre and areas for improvement.

2.3 Education Scotland notes that the evidence and evaluation to date indicate that St Michael's is making good progress in improving learning, raising attainment and closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

2.4 The report noted the following strengths of the school:

- Polite and friendly children who show respect toward each other in their everyday actions. Children are keen to discuss their learning and achievements and demonstrate the school's Catholic values in their interactions with each other and their teachers.
- The commitment of senior leaders, in ensuring that professional learning opportunities for staff have a positive impact on learning and teaching approaches.
- Partners and parents work well with the school to support and enrich children's learning experiences and outcomes. Children achieve success through the wide range of opportunities offered.

2.5 Education Scotland highlighted areas for improvement which include:

- Ensure that learning and teaching take account of the needs of all children and provide appropriate support and challenge. As planned, staff should continue to develop high-quality learning experiences which offer children relevant opportunities to learn and apply skills for learning, life and work;
- Improve approaches to assessment across the school. In doing so, develop a shared

understanding of children's progress across all areas of the curriculum;

- Continue to raise attainment for all children. This includes children who may need extra support in school.

2.6 As a result of the inspection, the school's Education Officer will continue to support the school's leadership team to address the areas for improvement, alongside the Attainment Challenge team.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Education & Communities Committee notes the Education Scotland report on St Michael's Primary School.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of Education Scotland's inspection framework, St Michael's Primary School was inspected in September 2019. Education Scotland staff and associates assessors from education authorities evaluated the education provision provided within the school.
- 4.2 The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages, identified key strengths and areas for improvement.

The framework for this inspection included reviewing quality indicators which enabled Education Scotland to evaluate aspects of:

- 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment
- 3.2 Raising Attainment and achievement

- 4.3 Education Scotland assessed and reported on the views of parents, pupils and staff, the quality of learning and teaching and how well the school was raising attainment and achievement for all pupils.
- 4.4 The report was published in January 2020. It has been issued to staff, parents, local elected members and the Convener and Vice-Convener (Education).

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 St Michael's Primary School has received a positive report from Education Scotland which outlines the progress made in the key areas.
- 5.2 The report noted that pupils benefit from an inclusive and nurturing environment and that teachers and support staff work hard to make learning intentions clear in all classrooms. Children are well behaved and eager to learn.
- 5.3 It also reported that support staff have undertaken a range of training opportunities and their skill in supporting pupils is leading to high levels of engagement.
- 5.4 Teachers plan learning, teaching and assessment using progression pathways to produce clear and concise daily plans. All teachers have regular meetings with members of the leadership team to discuss planning, learning and attainment data. Staff use a range of assessment approaches to assess children's progress in literacy and numeracy and this helps to support teachers' judgements and reporting to parents. Teachers have access to a range of pupil data, including standardised data to inform their understanding of children's progress over time.
- 5.5 A good start has been made to digital learning and the school's work in relation to being a Rights respecting School is also recognised.
- 5.6 In assessing the quality indicators, Education Scotland found the two key indicators to be the following:

For the Primary School:

- Learning, teaching and assessment - good
- Raising attainment and achievement - good

- 5.7 The following areas for improvement were identified:

- Ensure that learning and teaching take account of the needs of all children and provide appropriate support and challenge. As planned, staff should continue to develop high-quality learning experiences which offer children relevant opportunities to learn and apply skills for learning, life and work;

- Improve approaches to assessment across the school. In doing so, develop a shared understanding of children’s progress across all areas of the curriculum;
- Continue to raise attainment for all children. This includes children who may need extra support in school.

5.8 As a result of the inspection, the school has amended its School Improvement Plan to incorporate the areas for improvement. The school’s Education Officer will work with the school to address these, alongside support from the Attainment Challenge team.

5.9 The school will have a full review from the local authority in 2022/23 as part of the ongoing School Improvement Framework cycle.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

6.2 Legal

N/A.

6.3 Human Resources

N/A.

6.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
✓	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
✓	NO

6.5 Repopulation

N/A.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 The inspection letter be accessed at:
<https://education.gov.scot/media/4sia2cid/stmichaelspsins210120.pdf>

The summary of findings can be accessed at:
<https://education.gov.scot/media/rokcdyvb/stmichaelspsif210120.pdf>

21 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Michael's Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Polite and friendly children who show respect toward each other in their everyday actions. Children are keen to discuss their learning and achievements and demonstrate the school's Roman Catholic values in their interactions with each other and their teachers.
- The commitment of senior leaders, in ensuring that professional learning opportunities for staff have a positive impact on learning and teaching approaches.
- Partners and parents work well with the school to support and enrich children's learning experiences and outcomes. Children achieve success through the wide range of opportunities offered.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Inverclyde Council.

- Ensure that learning and teaching takes account of the needs of all children and provides appropriate support and challenge. As planned, staff should continue to develop high-quality learning experiences which offer children relevant opportunities to learn and apply skills for learning, life and work.
- Improve approaches to assessment across the school. In doing so, develop a shared understanding of children's progress across all areas of the curriculum.
- Continue to raise attainment for all children. This includes children who may need extra support in school.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for St Michael's Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:
<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4682>

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Inverclyde Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

John Reilly
 HM Inspector