



PROGRESS ON THE MAIN POINTS FOR ACTION

Avonbridge Primary School was inspected in May 2007 as part of a national sample of primary education. The school received a positive report with a number of key strengths identified.

Her Majesty's Inspectors identified five main points for action which the school and the authority have addressed jointly.

As part of the HMIE follow through process Falkirk Council Children's Services were asked to evaluate the progress made by the school in taking forward the recommendations and publish a report on progress to parents.

Continuous Improvement

Since the publication of the report in September 2007 Avonbridge Primary School has made steady and substantial progress with all recommendations in the HMIE report. The headteacher, Marlyn Yorkston, and her staff are firmly committed to an agenda of continuous improvement and have established a culture of self-evaluation and reflection.

The school has taken seriously the recommendations raised in the inspection of May 2007. This has been evidenced in classroom observations, meetings, discussions with pupils and staff and from paperwork produced by the school.

Progress in meeting the recommendations has been monitored and supported by the Quality Improvement and Curriculum Support Teams. Teaching and support staff have been committed to taking the school's plan forward.



Attainment 5-14

Attainment in English language at Avonbridge Primary School was good at the time of the inspection. Attainment in mathematics was adequate. The overall attainment in reading, writing and mathematics has improved. There are more pupils achieving beyond the levels for their stage.

Progress against the five action points identified by HMIE is detailed opposite.

Action point 1

Continue to raise attainment.

The language programme from nursery to P7 has been reviewed and, as a result, new reading and writing resources have been identified and purchased.

Staff have been trained in Active Literacy, Literature Circles, Book Detectives and I-Read. These courses and the subsequent change in practice have meant that learning and teaching in language has improved significantly. Attainment in reading and writing in 2008 showed improvement and higher attainment exceeded the local authority average.

Along with pupils from other small schools the pupils took part in a 'Talking for Scotland' event. Staff have also been developing talking and listening skills through the use of the Hearsay pack. Attainment in talking and listening have also improved and higher attainment in both of these areas exceeded the authority average.

The mathematics programme from nursery to P7 has been reviewed and setting has been introduced. Problem solving strategies are taught and consolidated at specific stages. Pupils work collaboratively to solve real life mathematical problems through cross curricular working. Attainment in mathematics has also shown improvement.

Very good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.

Action Point 2

Ensure appropriate pace and challenge in all lessons to meet the needs of all pupils.

Staff reviewed their assessment and planning procedures to ensure that they take account of prior learning and identify assessment opportunities at the planning stage.

The headteacher and staff worked together to take forward active learning strategies at all stages in school. They also increased the use of ICT to support learning and increase pace and challenge. Pupils who were interviewed felt they were working better and that teachers were helping them to make very good progress. Monitoring of planning and teaching and learning showed that pace and challenge had improved.

In the nursery class staff had looked specifically at the programme for physical development and movement. They have now introduced 'Top Start' and the 'Big Steps, Little Steps' programmes and participated in Falkirk Football Club's Mini-Kickers programme. In addition they explored the possibility of a grant application to build an activity course suitable for all children in the school and hope to take this forward in the coming year.

Good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.

Action Point 3

Provide more opportunities for pupils to be independent, active learners.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Pupils now have many opportunities to be independent, active learners. Staff have been trained in Active Learning and have implemented this appropriately in their classrooms. Staff have also looked at planning, classroom organisation and the use of ICT to promote independent active learning and the changes made are impacting positively on pupil experiences. Monitoring of teaching and learning showed that pupils worked individually, in pairs, trios, small groups and large groups. Pupils were taking more responsibility for their own learning and were motivated and keen to learn.

Very good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.

Action Point 4

Ensure monitoring of classroom practice leads to improvements in teaching and the quality of pupils' learning experiences.

The headteacher, alongside staff, has developed more systematic monitoring activities that support and challenge staff in their teaching approaches. Following classroom visits and tracking meetings support is arranged for specific pupils. Staff receive written and oral feedback on their practice and follow up visits take place to ensure that progress is made. Staff stated that this process has improved their confidence and the improvements in their teaching has had a positive impact on pupil attainment and achievement.

Very good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.



Action Point 5

Address gymnasium safety and outdoor security matters.

The boundary fence has now been completed and as a result vandalism has been greatly reduced. Pupils can play safely outside. Pupils also felt they now had better playground equipment and that having the fence had made a difference to the range of activities they could do during intervals and at lunchtime.

Staff discussed arrangements that could be put in place regarding the storage of equipment and staging in the hall and agreed procedures to improve this situation. The headteacher also arranged for the council's Risk Assessment Co-ordinator to visit the school and as a result it has been agreed to build new storage facilities in the hall. This work was completed in August 2009.

Good progress has been made towards meeting this recommendation.

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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 Children's 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.



LEARNING TO ACHIEVE
A Strategy for Raising Achievement

Follow Through Report on the Inspection of



Avonbridge Primary School
August 2009



Falkirk Council
Children's Services