

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILEDUCATION COMMITTEE9 May 2019Report by Director of EducationEDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT ON
OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS PRIMARY SCHOOL**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To inform elected members of the outstanding report by Education Scotland on Our Lady of the Missions Primary School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Elected members are asked to:

- (a) note and comment on the contents of the Education Scotland report on Our Lady of the Missions Primary School; and
- (b) commend the school's achievements by awarding it accreditation from May 2019 until May 2022.

BACKGROUND

3. Our Lady of the Missions Primary School was inspected by a team from Education Scotland in February 2019. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school and identified particular strengths and areas for improvement using the Education Scotland six-point scale and the self-evaluation framework *How Good is our School?* (4th edition).

4. This is the first East Renfrewshire establishment to be inspected under the short inspection model; under these arrangements Education Scotland evaluate two quality indicators and provide a short report which details the strengths and areas for improvement.

5. The report was published in April 2019 and is attached as Appendix 1. It has been issued to staff, parents, local elected members and the Convener for Education and Equalities.

REPORT

6. In assessing the indicators of quality in the primary school Education Scotland found one aspect of the work to be very good, i.e. learning, teaching and assessment. Inspectors evaluated the other quality indicator, raising attainment and achievement to be excellent. The evaluations are included in Appendix 1.

7. The particular strengths highlighted by the inspection team included:

- Highly articulate, confident and ambitious children.

- Close cluster working and careful tracking of children's progress; as a result staff in the school take very good account of what children already know and build on this from 3-18.
- Highly effective leadership of all staff and their team work which focuses on improving outcomes for children.
- The very high levels of attainment in literacy, numeracy and science.
- The focus on high quality learning and teaching.

8. This is outstanding report on an East Renfrewshire school and the judgements made by Education Scotland are very close to the department's evaluation of the quality of provision in Our Lady of the Missions Primary School. The department is especially pleased that the leadership of the head teacher and senior management team has been rightly recognised in the letter to parents/carers, as has the highly effective leadership of all staff and the very high levels of children's attainment in literacy, numeracy and science.

9. The inspection team agreed two areas of improvement with the school and Education Department:

- continue to develop children's understanding of themselves across all areas of the curriculum and learning; and
- continue to build on the school's approaches to improvement that involve meaningful partnerships with parents and the wider community. In taking forward health and wellbeing, ensure that all children access regular conversations about their wellbeing.

10. Given that the school has been judged to be excellent in raising attainment and achievement and very good in relation to learning, teaching and assessment by Education Scotland there is no need for an additional action plan to address the areas for improvement noted above. The school will continue to use the results of its own self-evaluation to identify priorities for improvement which will be published in its annual standards and quality report and school plan.

11. The department will continue to work in partnership with the head teacher and staff to share the sector leading practices with other schools within East Renfrewshire and across Scotland.

12. Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with the inspection of Our Lady of the Missions Primary School and the Education Department recommends that the school be accredited for its achievements. This will mean that the authority will not carry out any formal quality assurance activities in Our Lady of the Missions Primary School for a period of 3 years from the date of publication of the report, i.e. until May 2022.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

13. There are no financial or efficiency implications related to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. Elected members are asked to:

- (a) note and comment on the contents of the Education Scotland report on Our Lady of the Missions Primary School; and
- (b) commend the school's achievements by awarding it accreditation from May 2019 until May 2022.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
9 May 2019

Convener Contact Details

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Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Appendix

1. Education Scotland report on Our Lady of the Missions Primary School

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30 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Our Lady of the Missions 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.

- The highly articulate, confident and ambitious children. Their knowledge and influence in decision making in relevant contexts about the school, wider community, national and global issues is strong.
- Children's progress is carefully tracked; commendably involving the associated early learning and childcare setting and secondary school. As a result of working closely with staff across the cluster, there is a shared understanding of standards. Staff in Our Lady of the Missions Primary School take very good account of what children already know before they start school in P1 and build on this through carefully planned interventions. This sector leading practice continues in the associated secondary school until children complete their national qualifications.
- The very high levels of children's attainment in literacy, numeracy and science through a whole school approach ensuring excellence and equity of opportunity for all children. Through teamwork and a shared vision, these provide children with a broad range of experiences and achievements that enable them to succeed.
- Highly effective leadership of all staff and their team work which focuses on improving outcomes for children. Approaches to professional learning, including professional enquiry by teachers across the school to underpin improvements for children is commendable.
- The leadership of the headteacher and senior management team in quality assuring the work of the school and the focus on high quality learning and teaching. They all challenge themselves and each other to ensure children experience learning that is appropriate and makes a difference to the ethos and life of the school as a community.

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

- Continue to develop children's understanding of themselves across all areas of the curriculum and learning.
- Continue to build on the school's approaches to improvement that involve meaningful partnerships with parents and the wider community. In taking forward health and wellbeing, ensure that all children access regular conversations about their wellbeing.

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 Our Lady of the Missions Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	excellent
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/inspection-reports/east-renfrewshire/8600325>

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. East Renfrewshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Elizabeth C Montgomery
 HM Inspector