

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE) COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 3 SEPTEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Stuart Borrowman (Chair), David Dodds, Peter Heggie, Chris Horne, Carl John, Charles Kennedy, Dave King, Dom McGuire (substituting for Councillor Andrew McGuire), Andrew Miller and George Paul.

Apologies – Councillors Pauline Clark, Andrew McGuire, Moira Shemilt and Damian Timson; Appointed Members Eric Lumsden and Lynne McEwen.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 MINUTE

The committee confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 4 June 2019 as being a correct record. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

3 EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT: TORPHICHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) informing members of the outcome of the Education Scotland (HMI) inspection at Torphichen Primary School and Nursery Class. The Education Scotland letter outlining the results of the inspection was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

In April 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate had visited Torphichen Primary School and Nursery Class. During the visit, inspectors had talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the Head Teacher and staff.

The inspectors had identified the following strengths in the school's and nursery's work: The highly effective leadership of the seconded Head Teacher, together with the new Head Teacher; positive relationships and supportive interactions by staff in the nursery class and across the school; nurturing climate for learning in the nursery class and across the school where children are valued and work within an ethos of respect and care; effective practice towards improved attainment in literacy and numeracy; and strong commitment from parents and families to widen learning experiences for children.

The following priorities for continuing improvement had been identified: clear progression pathways across all curriculum areas in the nursery class; clear strategies and interventions to continue to raise attainment;

and evaluating more regularly progress and improvement over time.

Inspectors were confident that the school had the capacity to continue to improve so would make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The school was well supported by West Lothian Council.

During discussion Marnie Ferguson, Head Teacher, highlighted the school's efforts to efficiently address any potential emotional issues. The school also made a point of focusing on individual pupil needs to ensure appropriate support measures were in place at all times.

In response to questions about further improving attainment, the Head Teacher explained that attainment was tracked very closely and data were analysed regularly, while the school also made use of all available resources in the community to ensure the fast pace of teaching and learning achieved in the past two years continued.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the school's arrangements for continuing improvement.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and the update from the Head Teacher.

4 VALIDATED SELF EVALUATION: EAST CALDER PRIMARY SCHOOL

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) providing details of the outcome of the Validated Self Evaluation of East Calder Primary School.

The report outlined a number of key strengths and areas for ongoing improvement. Details of performance information for the school were provided in the report relating to attendance for session 2018/19 and teacher professional judgements for pupils achieving expected national levels in 2018/19 at Primary 1, 4 and 7.

Fiona Stewart, Head Teacher, then responded to questions from the committee and assured members that the school adapted to local area needs and community expansion. Details about pupil involvement in the creation of the new class charters were then discussed as well as areas for further improvement in the school and ways to achieve that improvement.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the school's arrangements for continuing improvement.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and the update from the Head Teacher.

5 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.