

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE COMMITTEE
11 MARCH 2010

Agenda Item	
Report No	

HMIe REPORTS

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report sets out the summary outcomes of HMIe Inspections of Primary and Secondary Schools.

Members are asked to note the positive outcomes.

The programme of HMIe inspections of Primary and Secondary schools contributes to the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement National Outcome 3 “We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation” by ensuring that we are providing the best opportunities possible.

We would also be delivering our commitment in Strengthening the Highlands to “Achieve full implementation of the Scottish Government’s policy of “Getting it Right for Every Child” which will ensure that all children get the help they need when they need it, by 2009.”

1. Background

- 1.1 Each year HMIe inspect Highland schools. In school session 2007/8, 30 schools were inspected, 2009/9 26 schools, and so far this session 16 Inspection reports have been published. Statistically the sample is relatively small and minor variations can be magnified as a result. However the overall pattern is very encouraging.
- 1.2 Inspections give a summary grade for five Quality Indicators shown in the table below. Direct comparison with Inspections before 2007/8 are difficult as different Quality Indicators were used.

Percentage of Inspection Reports which are positive ie ‘satisfactory’ or better			
	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Improvements in performance	97	89	94
Learners experiences	100	100	100
Meeting learning needs	90	89	88
The curriculum	80	94	94
Improvement through self evaluation	70	66	69

- 1.3 The table shows positive outcomes for almost all of our schools in the key Quality Indicators which are used throughout the country. We aim to improve every aspect of our work but the area of ‘Improvement through self evaluation’ is one to which we

are giving a high priority when Quality Improvement Officers visit schools. While the summary statistics show a fairly static picture within that Quality Indicator, there are two indicators of improvement. One is that the quality of positive reports is improving, with the percentage of schools awarded 'good' or above increasing from 36% in 2007/8 to 50% last year and 51% so far this year. The other is that we now know our schools much better than in the past – we rarely find our own assessment differs from HMle. Knowing where we are is a key first step to further improving what we do.

2 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the positive reports on our schools and note the improvement in quality of grades within 'Improvement through self evaluation'.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 19 February 2010

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Ref:

Background Papers