

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
11 JUNE 2008**

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL INSPECTIONS - MORAY COUNCIL FOLLOW-
THROUGH REPORTS MARCH – MAY 2008**

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Children and Young People's Services Committee to scrutinise and note the most recent report published by Moray Council Educational Services following an earlier school inspection by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) of Applegrove Primary School.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Children and Young People's Services Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 When a school is inspected by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) a report is published (by HMIE) which gives extended commentary on the school's performance. These reports are presented regularly to this Committee, usually at the first available opportunity after publication.
- 3.2 Such reports provide a summary of the "Key Strengths" of the school and HMIE recommendations for improvement, listed as "Main Points for Action". The reports also provide a summary of the school's performance against a number of the indicators of quality from "How Good Is Our School", the self-evaluation toolkit of quality indicators used by all schools.
- 3.3 Each report gives an indication of how and when HMIE intend to follow-through the inspection process. This can include:
- asking the school and the education authority to prepare an action plan indicating how they will address the main findings of the report, and to share that plan with parents and carers;
 - making arrangements for HM Inspectors to monitor progress in liaison with the education authority;
 - arranging further visits to the school to support and monitor improvement.

- 3.4 Where HMIE decide to revisit and reinspect the school then they themselves will publish a short follow-through report, usually within two years. Occasionally interim follow-through reports are published around one year from initial inspection. These are also reported to this Committee following publication.
- 3.5 Where HMIE indicate in their published report, or subsequently decide, that they will not revisit to reinspect the school then they expect Moray Council to prepare and publish an equivalent follow-through report for parents.
- 3.6 These Council published follow-through reports contain an evaluation of the extent to which the school has continued to improve since the original inspection, and evaluations of progress made by the school and the education authority in responding to the main points for action in the initial report. Follow-through inspection reports are also usually published within two years of the initial report.
- 3.7 In the period March – May 2008 the Council published one such progress report on Applegrove Primary School (**Appendix 1**).
- 3.8 Copies of all Council reports are available in the Members' Library, from the school and all HMIE reports are available online at www.hmie.gov.uk

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The report provides Committee with information relating to school performance as measured by HMIE in line with the corporate commitment to public performance reporting.

(b) Policy and Legal

HMIE inspect and report on a sample of Scottish schools every year. Their reports are intended to provide parents, local authorities and Scottish Ministers with information about how well schools are performing.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are no immediate Financial, Risk, Staffing, or Property implications arising from this report.

(d) Consultations

Senior Officers within Educational Services have been consulted and support the recommendation.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this progress report on Applegrove Primary School.

Author of Report: Jim Gibson, Quality Improvement Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Education and Young People's Services
Committee/11 June 2008/School Inspections - Moray Council
Follow-Through Reports March-May 2008

Designation: Director of Educational Services Name: Donald M Duncan

Moray Council progress report on **Applegrove Primary School** – published March 2008

The original inspection

HMIE published a report on the inspection of Applegrove Primary School in March 2006. This was reported to Educational Services Committee on 5 April 2006. At that time Inspectors required the school and the authority to prepare an action plan indicating how they would address the main points for action identified in the original inspection report. Earlier this year HMIE requested a report from the Director of Educational Services on the extent to which the school was continuing to improve the quality of its work, and to evaluate progress made in responding to the main points for action in their 2006 report. HMIE subsequently invited Moray Council to publish their own report for parents and carers.

Continuous Improvement

The headteacher, together with her staff, parents and pupils, had brought about further improvements to the school's provision.

- The school had achieved an Eco Schools Green Flag award in June 2006 and had continued to develop its work with pupils and parent volunteers on environmental issues. An Eco-Class of the week was identified and recognised for their efforts.
- New cycle shelters had been procured which provided safe and secure accommodation for pupil and staff bicycles. All senior pupils had undertaken cycling proficiency training. As a result of these measures an increased number of pupils now cycled to school.
- Previously established pupil working groups continued to provide children with opportunities to contribute to the running of the school. Parent Council working groups had been formed which mirrored and had links with the pupils' groups.
- A helpful website (www.applegroveprimary.uk.org) had been created allowing access to school information for parents, pupils and the wider community.
- A new house points system had been established with the award of a trophy annually and an attractive display board produced by pupils monitored the awarding of house points.
- A healthy tuck shop had been set up and was run by pupils from P6 and P7.
- A pupil version of the school handbook had been published in 2007.
- Attainment in reading, writing and in mathematics had all improved significantly. The levels of pupils' performance in national assessments were now above the local authority average, with most pupils achieving appropriate national levels. The use of a wide range of strategies to monitor pupils' progress had ensured that almost all pupils made appropriate progress from prior levels of attainment.

Progress with the Main Points for Action identified by HMIE:

- 1. Further improve arrangements for monitoring learning and teaching to build on identified good practice and track pupils' progress more effectively.**

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this main point for action.

- 2. Improve procedures for preparing and implementing individualised educational programmes for pupils with additional support needs.**

The school had overtaken this main point for action very well.

Conclusion

The school had made very good progress in addressing the main points for action. The education authority will continue to support the school with its improvement activities. The education authority, in consultation with HMIE, will make no further report in connection with the 2006 inspection. Parents will be informed of the progress made by the school.