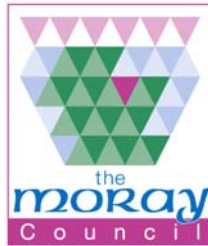


APPENDIX 3

Portessie Primary School

HMIE ACTION PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT



Educational Services

Progress Report for Portessie Primary School

May 2008

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1 The Inspection

HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) inspected Portessie Primary School in May 2007 and published their report in October 2007. Working with the school, the education authority prepared an action plan indicating how they would address the main points for action identified in the original HMIE inspection report.

The education authority has visited the school regularly since October 2007 to support the school and to assess the progress being made in responding to the main points for action in the report.

2 Continuous Improvement

Since the initial report in October 2007, an acting headteacher was put in place in the school. The acting headteacher, with support from the Quality Improvement Officer, and in consultation with all staff produced an action plan to address the six main points for action identified in the report. An informative summary of the action plan was produced for parents. Following an initial period in post, the authority took the decision to leave the acting headteacher in post until the end of the current session. This was done in order to give the school stability after the period of uncertainty during the year since the previous headteacher's departure.

The acting head teacher has quickly established good teamwork in the school and, as a result, staff morale has greatly improved. She meets regularly with staff and pupils to monitor and evaluate the work of the school in order to bring about improvement. As a result, the school is bringing about improvements for its pupils.

3 Progress with the Main Points for Action.

The initial HMIE inspection report published in October 2007 identified six main points for action. Below is a summary of the progress made to date with each of the action points.

3.1 Improve the quality of the curriculum

The school and the authority has made a promising start with this main point for action.

Staff have received training in ICT and there is now more consistent use of interactive whiteboards. Pupils' skills in the use of ICT are improving through a timetabled approach which gave pupils regular access to ICT facilities. Audit and monitoring of the curriculum and teachers' planning has identified gaps and the school has engaged with a Learning and Teaching Officer and other schools in order to address these. The school has achieved accreditation as a health promoting school at commitment level in December 2007.

3.2 Improve attainment in English language and mathematics

The school has taken a number of successful early steps in order to improve attainment.

Setting had been introduced in mathematics for P4 – P7. Staff and pupils have reported that this had been a successful approach. The acting headteacher has introduced a monitoring calendar and this ensures that pupil attainment is regularly reviewed. The Learning and Teaching Officer (Literacy) is working with the school to improve pace and challenge in English language. School estimates for attainment in mathematics and English language has shown improvement from last year's attainment.

3.3 Improve the quality of pupils' learning experiences and the arrangements to meet pupils' needs

The school has made an effective start in addressing this main point for action.

Staff have attended training in approaches to learning and teaching. Monitoring by the acting headteacher has shown improvements in learning and teaching. There has been consistent use of interactive whiteboards in the delivery of teaching and this has allowed pupils to be more active in their own learning. As a result, pupils are more motivated and the pace of lessons has improved.

3.4 Improve traffic management to ensure pupils' safety

The school and the authority have completed this main point for action.

Traffic calming measures have been introduced at the entrance to the school car park. Improvements have been carried out to signage at the car park entrance and a gate has been erected to enclose the playing area. As a result, pupil safety has been improved.

3.5 Improve the leadership of the school

The acting headteacher has taken important steps to improve leadership at the school.

Following her appointment, the acting headteacher quickly helped establish a parent council. Staff have been given opportunities for taking responsibility for initiatives and there is good collegial working in the school. The acting headteacher has involved the pupil council in decision making in the school. She has started the process of revising the school's aims and developing a common vision for the school.

3.6 Improve arrangements to monitor and evaluate the work of the school

The school has made a promising start to meeting this main point for action.

The acting headteacher has devised an annual calendar of monitoring activities which sets out clearly how the school will evaluate its provision. She had had regular attainment meetings with staff, had updated attainment information on a monthly basis and had used baseline data to monitor pupil progress. She has visited classrooms to monitor the quality of learning and teaching and fed back to staff following the visits. Plans are in place to seek the views of pupils, staff and parents as part of the school's evaluation of performance.

4 Conclusion

The acting headteacher with the support of the authority has made a very good start in addressing the six main points for action. The arrangements which have been put in place for monitoring and self-evaluation have increased capacity for improvement in the school

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The full HMIE report on Portessie Primary School can be found at www.hmie.gov.uk.