

Follow-through report

**Lesmahagow
High School**

16 June 2011

Background

Lesmahagow High School was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in November 2009. Following the publication of the report in January 2010, the Head Teacher and staff prepared an action plan to address the main recommendations.

The school is part of the Lesmahagow Learning Community within Clydesdale. The Head of Education (Clydesdale) reviewed progress with the Action Plan and submitted an evaluation of the school's progress in response to the HMIE inspection report.

HMIE require that a follow-through report is completed within two years of the initial report and, in the case of Lesmahagow High School, this is the responsibility of South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources. The following provides a summary of the progress made by the school in addressing the main points for action included within the inspection report.

Continuous improvement

Since the initial inspection, the school has continued to improve its effectiveness in a number of ways. These include:

- All staff have worked effectively to take forward the recommendations contained in the report promoting a culture of continuous improvement and sharing good practice across the school. Good progress has been made embedding Curriculum for Excellence ensuring departments try to build on young people's prior learning through joint working with primary colleagues.
- There is commitment from young people and staff at all levels to improve teaching approaches and learners' experiences.
- Young people's personal and social skills have been developed through their involvement in a wide range of activities to promote healthy lifestyles, enterprise and sustainable development.
- All staff are working to further improve the quality of relationships with parents and external partners by looking for additional opportunities to involve them in the teaching and learning experiences of their young people. Partnership working with parents and other agencies has increased through events like the S4-6 Careers Information Evening and the Chef's Challenge.
- In 2007 the school moved to a new school building. The new facilities have improved pupil movement around the building and the improved environment is impacting positively on the ethos in and around the school.

Main points for action

The following offers a brief account of the progress made by the school and the authority in addressing the main action points of the report.

- *Set higher expectations for standards of work and behaviour to raise attainment*

The school has made good progress in addressing this main point for action.

There is an increased focus on raising attainment and accreditation for pupils with additional study skills being taught through the school's mentoring and support programme. Pupils are being encouraged to take more responsibility for their own learning. Pupils, particularly S1 pupils, use ICT more confidently and effectively.

Pace and challenge are now the focus of classroom visits which improves consistency across the school and the Raising Attainment Working Group promotes independent learning strategies for example through assemblies, sharing good teaching practice and newsletters to involve, engage and challenge pupils, parents and staff.

Regular sampling of pupils' experiences at departmental level and senior management level has ensured that pupils' needs are being met more effectively. Closer links with partner agencies have resulted in improved provision for some pupils. Revised attendance strategies have resulted in improved attendance rates and in setting higher expectations for pupils.

The Ethos Working Group has concentrated on promoting a more positive culture and a stimulating learning climate within the school.

- *Develop the curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence to meet the needs of all people*

The school has made good progress in addressing this main point for action.

IT is used to support the delivery of the Compassion Project and to develop skills. Green Screen Technology, the use of net books, the improvements in GLOW within classes have all resulted in pupils being involved in more active learning opportunities. Courses in S1 and S2 continue to be reviewed and developed to ensure they are in line with *Curriculum for Excellence* principles.

Groups of staff are working on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing documents outlining the school's principles and practice. Presentations on *Curriculum for Excellence* have been made to groups of parents and to the Parent Council. Achievements continue to be celebrated through regular events and staff are working on how to capture the achievements of individual pupils. A Curricular Working Group has been established to plan the way forward for all pupils.

- *Develop better approaches to monitoring and evaluating to improve young people's progress*

The school has made good progress in addressing this main point for action.

The further development of the tracking and reporting system helps staff monitor pupils' progress more effectively and allows for improved early intervention. The Quality Management Steering Group introduced a more rigorous system of self-evaluation focussed on departments and their ability to reflect and improve practice. The programme of class visits prioritises **learning** and teaching and allows for more sampling of work across subjects and stages.

All leaders within the school monitor the Improvement Plans regularly and all staff are encouraged to learn from each other, to visit other schools and to set up networks with colleagues from other Clydesdale schools.

Conclusion

Overall, the school has made good progress with meeting the main points for action.

Education Resources will not provide any further report in connection with the original HMIE report of 2010, but will continue to monitor and support procedures within the school as part of its commitment to ensuring the highest quality of education for all.

For more information or if you want this Information in a different format or language, please phone 01698 454450 or email education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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