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Our Ref: DISTRICT\INFO\QI INDICES\ES\REPORTS\
STEWARTRY\GATEHOUSE\LET001-GB\EG\RL

25 January 2017

To:

**All Parents and Carers of Pupils at
Gatehouse Primary School**

**Children, Young People & Lifelong
Learning**

Woodbank

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LETTER REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF GATEHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL SINCE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT OF 9 FEBRUARY 2016

Gatehouse Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in October 2013. The inspection focussed on: 1) How well children learn and achieve; 2) How well the school supports children to develop and learn and 3) How well the school improves the quality of its work. Inspectors engaged the schools in continuing engagement visits in November 2014 & 2015. Education Scotland disengaged following this last visit, as a result of significant progress made by the school.

As part of the quality reporting arrangements of Education Services, Dumfries and Galloway Council, I am writing to inform you of the progress made by Gatehouse Primary School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in February 2016.

Develop children's awareness of their next steps to improve their learning and how they can achieve them

The school is developing approaches to enable the children to become reflective learners. The school recognises that encouraging children to think and discuss their learning is an effective way to ensure good progress for every child. From Early to Second Level, the children are being encouraged to talk about their learning and set their own targets.

Parents are now included in this process through the school's twice yearly Learning Conversation meetings, which enable the child, parent and teacher to reflect on their work and set meaningful targets. The first set of Learning Conversation Meetings has been held and feedback from a parental survey and from teachers has been very positive. There are plans for staff to evaluate the Learning Conversation meetings and to ensure all children in school have their own personal Learning Conversation Folder.

Improve children's understanding of mathematics through regular opportunities for children to discuss their reasoning

Regular sessions are held throughout the week where the children are encouraged to solve a problem and share with others how they did this. Children gain a better

understanding of mathematics through hearing and seeing the variety of solutions to a single problem. Initial assessments in the upper school show good progress in mathematics. Staff will continue to develop the number talks method by including visual representations of problems solved through Numicom, counting frames, number lines and hundred squares.

Put in place a clear system to track all achievement systematically

The school has developed a tracking system for maths and language. This system enables the effective tracking of each child's progress from year to year. The information is used in the Attainment Consultations that are held twice a year with the head teacher, class teacher and learning support teacher. This information and the consultations enable the school to ensure that progress is maintained and to quickly notice, and work together to rectify, any child whose progress has faltered. The system also allows the school to track progress of different groups of children, for example any children who are looked after and accommodated. The tracking system will be developed to include the other areas of the curriculum. The school will continue to develop teachers' professional judgements to support assessment of children's work.

Finally, a revisit from the Care Inspectorate graded the Nursery 'very good' across all areas and there were no recommendations to be carried through. The children from nursery continue to enter Primary one with a very good understanding of mathematics and literacy as evidenced in standardised assessments carried out early in Primary 1.

The commitment of staff and the effective leadership across the school have ensured significant progress in addressing the Education Scotland's recommendations. I congratulate all the staff and children, as well as parents and the wider school community, on the progress made over the last year.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Brydson
Head of Education