

**Children, Young People & Lifelong Learning**

122-124 Irish Street

Dumfries

DG1 2PB

Your Ref:

Our Ref: DISTRICT\INFO\QI\INDICES\ES\REPORTS\  
A&E\EASTRIGGS PS\LET001-GB\EB\RL

25 June 2019

To:

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

Any enquiries please contact

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Dear Parent / Carer

**LETTER REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF EASTRIGGS PRIMARY SCHOOL SINCE  
EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT OF 28 AUGUST 2018**

Eastriggs Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in May 2018. The inspection focussed on: leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion and children's attainment and achievements.

As part of the quality reporting arrangements of Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning, Dumfries and Galloway Council, I am writing to inform you of the progress made by Eastriggs Primary School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in August, 2018. The report highlighted three main aspects for development.

This letter sets out actions taken by the school in addressing these points.

**Ensure the school and the nursery work more closely together, developing a common vision and values, and agreed systems and procedures.**

The nursery team & Headteacher worked with all stakeholders to create their new Vision, Values & Aims that is in line with the aspirations of the school, whilst reflecting the values parents felt most important for their children at this stage. These are displayed clearly within the nursery and used as a point of reference during the nursery day, staff meetings and when planning new experiences for the children.

The nursery team meet with the Head teacher each week resulting in nursery improvements being implemented in good time. These have included areas of responsibility for the pupils, policies being kept up to date, reviewing medical procedures and continuing to develop the outdoor space.

The nursery team has devised new paperwork for the pupil learning journeys. This now captures the most relevant information about every child's safety, health and learning needs and has been received positively by parents. Parents also make use of the 'Big Book' which documents the work of the children over this session.

**Develop the culture of self-evaluation across the school and the nursery, to enable all staff and practitioners to reflect on strengths and areas for improvement. This will allow all staff to contribute more effectively to improvement planning and the leadership of change.**

Teaching staff reflect and evaluate their practice, school improvement work, national initiatives and the curriculum in formal weekly meetings. This year, the focus of these sessions has included outdoor learning, play-based learning, listening and talking assessments and Science, Technology, English and Maths (STEM) project work. Time is set aside each term for staff to discuss areas of the curriculum and what they expect at their stage. This is leading to a shared standard across the school. During Session 18/19, there has been a significant turnover of staff and so the school plans to keep this moderation work in place so that all temporary and visiting teachers know the expectations within Eastriggs Primary.

Self-evaluation activities relating to school improvement priorities are undertaken at whole school level, individual, class and group level. This session, a new reading intervention has shown that over 8 weeks of intervention (average 29 lessons), learners in Eastriggs Primary experienced an average gain of 7 months in Reading Age.

This session, parents were invited to attend a focus group to discuss the school's positive relationships policy. This feedback was used in conjunction with the views of teaching and support staff. At Parents' Evening, the Acting Headteacher asked parents their views on playground zoning and this information was used within the first draft policy. On her return, the Headteacher met again with parent representatives and the school is now ready to share the positive behaviour policy which reflects the day to day working of the school. Parents asked for a clear flow chart to show what should be done when pupils, parents and staff have a concern about bullying. This has been included in the policy.

The school benefits from a good working relationship between the Headteacher and Parent Council. Parents are confident in raising areas of the school's work they would like to see changed and improved. Most recently, these have included the way in which the school keeps them informed about their child's learning. (snapshot jotters). Together, the Parent Council and Headteacher plan to gather the views of all parents before making a decision on changing this.

**Build on the good practice in learning, teaching and assessment across the school, to meet the needs of all children consistently. There is a need for staff to provide targets and tasks for all children which are well-matched to their abilities.**

During the course of this session, teaching staff at Eastriggs Primary have shared good practice around their approaches to classroom organisation: considering ways in which all children can be meaningfully employed, making the most of their learning time at all times.

The robust programmes of study in place at Eastriggs Primary aid this work. During classroom observations, more children were seen to be accessing tasks appropriate to them, for more of the time available.

All staff further developed this by undertaking tasks linked to learning and teaching that required them to focus on a new technique and to trial this in their work. Feedback from all staff was positive, and feedback from learners was clear about which new method they enjoyed and those which had a positive impact on their learning; for example, 'Model It' through which support staff working with children were asked to model the work they expected to see at the end of an input/lesson. Children found this very helpful.

A working party has developed the schools 'outdoor learning' policy showing ways that children's learning needs can be met through planned use of the outdoors. A group of pupils have been developing the school's nature garden and in turn have been upskilled enough so that in Term 4, the pupils have been cascading their learning to other children within the school. This work will continue next session.

Eastriggs Primary School demonstrates good capacity for future improvement. This is the result of the hard work and commitment of the Headteacher, staff and children. I wish to congratulate all within the school community on their progress over the last year.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Brydson  
Acting Director, Children, Young People & Lifelong Learning