



# Follow-through Inspection Report

## Knightswood Primary School

November 2009

### **The Inspection**

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education HMIE published a report on standards and quality in Knightswood Primary School in September 2007 following an inspection of the school in April 2007. Working with the education authority, the school prepared an improvement plan, indicating how they would continue to maintain the very high standard of education provided in the school and seek further improvement.

The original report identified many strengths in the school. It did not identify any actions for improvement. This report identifies the key developments, which have taken place in the school in response to the original inspection report.

### **Continuous Improvement**

The school continued with its commitment to improving the quality of education for all children. Teachers have successfully developed active learning in mathematics across the stages. Teachers, support staff and parents received training. As a result of these initiatives, teachers and support staff are now planning mathematics lessons in different ways to enable children to be engaged in their own learning through a variety of activities. Teachers have also introduced Play Along Maths at the early stages, which is proving very effective in stimulating children's interest in key mathematical concepts at an early age. Parents are now more effectively involved in supporting their child's learning in mathematics. Knightswood Primary School is now being visited by staff from across the authority as an example of best practice in active learning in mathematics.

Enterprise education continues to be highly successful in the school. A third platinum award for enterprise has been achieved. The school also achieved Health Promoting School status in 2008 in recognition of the wide range of initiatives taking place in health and wellbeing. There has been innovative work in relation to the eco-school action plan for the school. Senior citizens in the local community volunteered to operate the new healthy fruit stall as an alternative to the school tuck shop. This group of volunteers along with parents is also active in supporting the new outdoor garden which will feature as an opportunity for extended outdoor learning through session 2009-10. The school achieved the Eco-school Green Flag award in September 2009 which is the highest category of Eco-school award.

The school embarked on an ambitious project to improve further children's behaviour and engagement, which is proving to be effective in supporting all children. Training was delivered to all staff to ensure key principles were understood, new resources purchased and information sessions for parents organised. The personal, social and health education programme was revised in line with this new approach and additional supports were offered to children including circle time opportunities at lunchtime where children could access further assistance. The playground pals scheme has also ensured that efforts are made to ensure all children are included, happy and secure. In recognition of this initiative, which is led by support staff, the school was awarded a GO Award by the Council in 2008.

The school has achieved considerable success in the delivery of the Cool in School Project which has helped children take greater responsibility for their own behaviour

and show greater respect for others within the school community. A house system was introduced and has proved very successful, enabling children of different ages to work together to promote achievement across the curriculum. School aims and values have been reviewed and refreshed, inspired by the philosophy behind Curriculum for Excellence and the values enshrined on the Scottish Mace. These positive developments have impacted on children's behaviour and consequently the overwhelming majority of children are productively engaged in learning.

**Partnership with Parents and ensuring children are motivated to learn**

Teachers introduced an interim report on children's progress. Additional opportunities for parents to find out more about the school's plans for improvement have been well received including the sessions on active learning. Building on the success of the school website, parents have welcomed the development of the new class websites. Parents are increasingly more involved in supporting key aspects of their children's education. ICT has continued to be used both as a learning tool by children and as a means of enhancing learning and teaching. Parent's efforts to raise additional funds have enabled the school to purchase new smart boards, which are readily accessed by all children. In 2008 a new ICT suite was opened and is proving extremely popular with staff and children.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

The school continues to benefit from highly effective leadership. It is further recognition of this very effective leadership that the Authority assigned the headteacher to another school for part of the session 2008-09, on an interim basis, to provide leadership leading to improvement. Knightswood Primary School continues to share aspects of its good practice with other schools in Glasgow. The school has participated in the Open Doors Programme operated by the Authority, offering teachers in other schools the opportunity to learn from successful initiatives at Knightswood. The school team continues to review practice and seek continuous improvement. Considerable development has already taken place in relation to Curriculum for Excellence. This will be extended in the forthcoming sessions with a focus on improving literacy at the core.

As identified in the HMIe report on the school in September 2007, the school benefits from a "strong record of improvement and very effective leadership", and this continues to be the case. Children's attainment will continue to be monitored to ensure that sustained improvement takes place in mathematics and that attainment in language is maintained at a high level. All staff continue to provide an increasing range of opportunities for children to achieve. The strong teamwork across the staff team, the consistently positive approach of children and the support of parents and carers provide the school with a firm base upon which continuous improvement can continue to be successfully built.

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