



Follow-through Inspection Report

Castlemilk High School

June 2010

1. The Inspection

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) published a report on Castlemilk High School in June 2008 following an inspection of the school in March 2008. The report evaluated a number of quality indicators as excellent and highlighted the positive impact the school was having on improving the life opportunities of pupils as a key strength.

With the education authority, the school prepared an action plan indicating how they would continue to monitor the impact of the school's improvements on pupils' attainment. The Area Manager and the link Quality Improvement Officer visited the school throughout 2008-2010 to evaluate the extent to which the school was continuing to improve the quality of its work and to evaluate the progress made in responding to the main action point.

2. Continuous Improvement

The headteacher has continued to provide excellent leadership. Throughout the school, staff continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to improvement. Staff at all levels show a willingness to secure improvements and participate in and lead a range of working groups to take forward initiatives. These build upon the existing very good practice within the school.

During 2008/09, senior managers and pastoral care team monitored, tracked and along with young people themselves, set individual targets for all senior pupils based on school assessments, interim reports from staff and prelim scores. Additional tutoring was provided for a group of young people who were looked after. Attainment increased, in particular, at Credit level for S4.

In 2009/10, senior managers continued to track carefully young people's progress. Those young people identified as 'borderline' for pass in Higher or intermediate 2 courses were provided with additional tuition by staff. This took place at after-school, lunchtime, weekend and residential settings. The school also provided one-to-one coaching by an external consultant on preparation for exams.

To enhance their own skills and to improve the quality of learning experiences for young people, staff willingly undertake a range of opportunities for professional development including continuous professional development sessions provided by the authority on co-operative learning, sharing effective practice in active learning and assessment strategies.

The school is preparing very well for the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. Staff have been using the experiences and outcomes and priorities for development are clearly set out in the improvement plan for this year and future years.

The school has continued to improve attainment. In 2009, the school had improved the proportion of pupils who achieved level E or better by the end of S2 in mathematics. In 2009, the school performed across a range of indicators better than or in-line with similar schools. For example, by the end of S4, the proportion of pupils gaining five

or more awards at Credit or Intermediate 2 level had increased from 8% to 17%. Attainment at General or Intermediate 1 level had increased from 55% to 66%. The school has also improved the proportion of young people gaining one or more Higher passes in S5. However, in 2009 the proportion of young people gaining three or more Higher passes had not improved.

Pupils' attendance continues to improve year-on-year. The school has continued to make very good progress in reducing the number of exclusions. In 2009/10 the number of exclusion incidents and the number of days lost through exclusion had declined by around 40% from the previous year.

The number of pupils choosing to stay on at school has increased in both S5 and S6.

The school has made very good progress in improving the destinations of young people leaving school. The percentage of school leavers entering positive destinations was above the national average in 2008-9.

The school continued to provide a wide variety of opportunities for young people to achieve.

These include:

- Eight young people achieved gold awards through the ASDAN Princes Trust programme;
- S4 young people achieved a bronze award in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme;
- Commendably a number of young people passed their driving test after embarking on a learning to drive programme delivered after school;
- Young people in S5 and S6 were trained as buddies to support anti-bullying strategies for pupils in S1;
- Several young people achieved Sports Leadership qualifications;
- Young people have developed their citizenship skills through supporting fundraising events including relief for the Haiti earthquake; and
- A number of staff and young people have supported a humanitarian project which renovated primary schools in Uganda.

3. Progress Towards the Main Points for Action

Main point for action 1

The HMIE report of 2008 identified one main point for action.

Continue to implement the school's commendable strategy for improvement.

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

The HMIE report highlighted that through determination and attention to individual needs, founded on a shared vision and values, staff had improved the life opportunities of many young people. The school has through the implementation of the School Improvement Plan continued to ensure that it provided a very good quality of education for its young people.

The plan clearly identifies the expected impact on young people. The school regularly tracks the progress and the implementation of the improvement plan through regular SMT meetings. The implementation of the strategy has continued to improve the experiences, the attainment, and the achievement of young people.

4.
Conclusion and
Next Steps

The school has responded well to the recommendation of HMIE and had continued to improve a number of aspects of provision. The headteacher and staff have continued to make a very positive impact on young people's achievements and attainment. Castlemilk High School continues to provide a very good standard of education for its young people.

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