

## Education and Lifelong Learning

Parents / Carers  
Melrose Primary School

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Dear Parent / Carers

### **HM INSPECTION REPORT – MELROSE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Melrose Primary School was inspected as part of the Inspection programme by Education Scotland. The report from this inspection was published in April 2012. In May 2013, four Senior Education Officers (SEOs) carried out a two day follow through visit to the school to assess progress with actions identified by the original inspection team. This letter provides an update on the progress the school has made in relation to these areas.

#### **Main Points for Action:**

##### **Improve the quality of learning and achievement in all classes.**

Within the nursery, staff have further developed the involvement of children in planning and talking about their learning. Children are learning through play and activities are led by the children rather than being adult directed. There has been a focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills for children through all the learning activities provided. Within primary classes, children were motivated in their learning and engaged well in all activities which were suitably challenging for all children. In almost all lessons, learning experiences were of a high standard. Children take pride in celebrating their achievements within the school and in their Personal Learning Plans (PLPs). Children have also been extending their skills by ongoing participation in Eco work which has been a significant development throughout the school this session.

##### **Ensure all children are challenged suitably, including through setting their own targets, and that their progress is evaluated effectively, so that they can make strong progress from year to year.**

The school now has a formal system in place to track and monitor children's progress in reading, writing and mathematics. This allows class teachers and the management team to track individual progress both within the class and across the school. Teachers use a range of assessment evidence on which they base their judgments. Children's skills are progressing and lessons are set in a context which provides suitable challenge for all. Lessons are active and build on previous learning. Teachers give children both verbal and written feedback which supports them in taking forward their learning. From this, children are able to take responsibility for setting their own individual learning targets. The ongoing developments within Eco Schools has also allowed children of all ages to further develop their leadership skills.

### **Develop and implement a clear plan to improve the curriculum.**

A clear strategic plan has been devised to support school developments over the next three years. There has been a clear focus on improvement across all areas of the curriculum and staff are more confident in planning, tracking and evidencing children's progress. Learning experiences in all curricular areas were of a high quality. As a result of these developments there is a clear improvement in learning and teaching approaches which are in line with the principles of curriculum for excellence.

### **Improve the way self-evaluation is led and used so that it has a decisive impact on the quality of learning and achievement at all stages.**

Staff have benefited from clear support and guidance from the senior management team. They have all worked together to develop professional dialogue and sharing of good practice which has led to a significant increase in the pace of developments and their impact within the school. Staff are more reflective about their practice and the further steps they can take to increase progress and learning experiences for all children. Monitoring and evaluation has had an impact across the school with a focus on improving learning and achievement. Children and parents have been engaged in the work of the school and they have added to the whole self evaluation process.

### **Conclusion**

Significant progress has been made by the school within each of the actions identified in the inspection. The school has increased its capacity for improvement and is now well placed to continue to make further improvements.

Yours sincerely

**YVONNE MCCRACKEN  
HEAD OF SCHOOL SERVICES**