

## 1 THE INSPECTION

HM Inspectors of Education (HMIE) published a report on the quality of education in Dean Park Primary School in October 2007. Subsequently the school with support from the education authority, amended the school improvement plan to take account of the findings of the inspection.

An education authority team recently visited the school to assess the extent to which the school was continuing to develop the quality of its education, including the areas identified for improvement and produced a progress report for parents.

This report tells you about the quality of education provided by the school since the original inspection. It also comments on the progress made in the agreed areas for improvement.

The main areas of focus are on learning and achievement, meeting the learning needs of the pupils and leadership to help the school achieve its aims.

## 2 IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION PROVIDED

### 2.1 Learning and achievement

All pupils were making very good progress in their learning. The very good attainment in reading, writing and mathematics had been

maintained over the last two years. In P3, P5 and P7 the majority of pupils achieved levels of attainment in reading and writing earlier than might be expected. All pupils actively contributed to their individual tracking folders and talked proudly of their achievements. Achievement was well recognised, celebrated and promoted within the school. Pupils confidently shared their successes outwith school with their peers and recorded these in their individual tracking folders.

Staff were successfully developing the new curriculum and the school had adopted an innovative system to structure the learning within each class and across the school. This was supporting an increasingly integrated approach to learning which was relevant and motivating for the pupils. The system covered the areas of ecology, health, citizenship and enterprise and pupils were increasingly confident in explaining why they were learning a particular topic.

Pupils were actively involved in the planning of their learning and spoke enthusiastically of the opportunities to be involved in whole-school events, including competitions. The pupils had developed confidence and skills in working together through regular opportunities to participate and lead developments.

The pupils were very proud of their school and had very high expectations of themselves in learning and behaviour. The submission for the achievement of the second green flag had focused on continuing to develop an increasingly healthy life style and the promotion of sustainable projects which had further developed pupils as responsible citizens.

Children in the nursery were involved in planning and developing their learning through thematic mindmaps and attractive floor books which were shared with parents.

### 2.2 Meeting pupils' learning needs

Pupils were enthusiastic, motivated and eager learners. They responded well to the very high levels of achievement expected of them in class and throughout the whole school. Teachers had very effective approaches to involve pupils as fully as possible in their learning. Pupils particularly enjoyed working in groups, being set challenges and the variety of opportunities they had to present their work in new and exciting ways. Pupils demonstrated increased responsibility for their learning and were developing skills in reflecting on their learning through their learning logs.

Information, communication and technology (ICT) was fully embedded as part of the learning environment. Pupils spoke confidently about using ICT to support their learning and could demonstrate highly developed skills in this area.

Pupils had continued to develop their understanding of equality issues. All pupils had been involved in the whole school project 'adopt a country' through class assemblies, contributions to the display of knowledge and the bookmark competition. The winning bookmarks were available from libraries across Edinburgh.

The school had continued its excellent practice of working together to identify and successfully support pupils with additional support needs.

### 2.3 Leadership and direction

There was collegiate leadership in the school which was responsive to change and instrumental in guiding improvement. The vision of the headteacher encouraged and inspired staff and pupils to develop skills in leadership at all levels. Staff welcomed the opportunities to develop personally and professionally in taking on leadership roles in the school. The faculty working groups had empowered pupils to take an active role in planning for their learning. The successful learning conference, led by pupils, had enabled pupils to share the work of the school with their peers.

The headteacher and staff were involved in evaluating the work of the school. They were continuing to develop new ways of gathering the views of parents, pupils and staff and to develop systems to identify and share good practice in learning and teaching.

Parental involvement in their child's learning has been further developed through increased participation in their child's individual tracking folder. Parents had responded very well to contributing to the celebration of success of their child's achievements in the local and wider community. Parents were involved in specific projects within and across the faculties, including the many opportunities to participate in the health week and health projects. The comprehensive website developed by the parent teacher association provided information to support parental involvement in the wider life of the school.

## 3 CONCLUSION

With support from the education authority, Dean Park Primary School provided a very good standard of education for its pupils. The school had progressed very well since the inspection and had made the necessary improvements in light of the inspection findings. The current improvement plan had had a major impact on the work of the school. The teamwork in the school provided a very strong basis for continued improvement. The education authority will not publish further reports in connection with the 2007 HMIE report.

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# DEAN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Follow through report on the HMIE inspection

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