

## **Item: 6**

**Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 15 November 2023.**

**Education Scotland – Inspection of Glaitness School.**

**Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To advise of the findings of the recent Education Scotland inspection of Glaitness School undertaken in May 2023.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Committee is invited to note:

#### **2.1.**

That, in May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Glaitness School, being the first short model inspection of any of the schools in Orkney since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **2.2.**

That, in a short model inspection, two key quality indicators from How Good is Our School are used, with the evaluations for Glaitness School as follows:

- Learning, Teaching and Assessment – satisfactory.
- Raising Attainment and Achievement – satisfactory.

#### **2.3.**

That, as a result of the positive inspection visit, HM Inspectors are confident in the school's capacity to continue to improve and as such they will make no more visits to the school in connection with this inspection.

The Committee is invited to scrutinise:

#### **2.4.**

The inspection letter in respect of Glaitness School, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, issued by Education Scotland on 29 August 2023, in order to obtain assurance.

## **3. Background**

### **3.1.**

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Glaitness School. This is the first short model inspection of any of the schools in Orkney since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3.2.**

The school had undergone significant building works in the two years immediately prior to the inspection. This impacted on every class across the school.

### **3.3.**

2022/23 was the first full session of learning that had not experienced significant disruption during the last three years. Nationally learning was disrupted from March 2020 to June 2021 with two full lockdowns and restrictions placed on what could be done within schools to minimise mixing. During session 2021/22, there were many challenges with a high degree of absences from children and staff as the COVID-19 outbreak really impacted across Orkney's schools during this time and there were times when some classes had to close, including those at Glaitness School.

## **4. Summary of Inspection**

### **4.1.**

The following key strengths were identified:

- Children who are polite, happy and eager to learn. They are keen to share their learning and contribute well to the wider community.
- Staff's successful approach to checking the progress of children across the school who require additional support with their learning. This is supporting children to make positive progress in their learning.
- Approaches to learning through play for the youngest children. This is supporting children to be independent learners.

### **4.2.**

The following areas for improvement were identified:

- Improve the quality of learning and teaching across the school. Senior leaders and teachers should work together, as planned, to agree what high-quality learning and teaching looks like at Glaitness School.
- Teachers should plan learning and assessment more effectively. This will support them to raise children's attainment.

## **5. Summary and Next Steps**

### **5.1.**

The areas for improvement, outlined in section 4.2 above, will be taken forward by the school as part of the school improvement planning process and will feature on the plan for Glaitness over the next few years to ensure that they are embedded in practice.

### **5.2.**

Local Authority officers will continue to engage with the staff team to monitor and support the improvements identified.

### **5.3.**

The Committee is invited to scrutinise the inspection letter in respect of Glaitness School, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, issued by Education Scotland on 29 August 2023.

## **6. Corporate Governance**

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and scrutiny and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

## **7. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations to this report.

## **8. Legal Aspects**

There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

## **9. Contact Officers**

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Peter Diamond, Head of Education, extension 2436, Email [peter.diamond@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:peter.diamond@orkney.gov.uk).

Morag Miller, Service Manager (Primary Education), extension 2438, Email [morag.miller@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:morag.miller@orkney.gov.uk).

## **10. Appendix**

Appendix 1 – Letter from Education Scotland.

29 August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Glaitness School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Children who are polite, happy and eager to learn. They are keen to share their learning and contribute well to the wider community.
- Staff's successful approach to checking the progress of children across the school who require additional support with their learning. This is supporting children to make positive progress in their learning.
- Approaches to learning through play for the youngest children. This is supporting children to be independent learners.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Orkney Islands Council

- Improve the quality of learning and teaching across the school. Senior leaders and teachers should work together, as planned, to agree what high-quality learning and teaching looks like at Glaitness School.
- Teachers should plan learning and assessment more effectively. This will support them to raise children's attainment.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Glaitness School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [Education Scotland](#)

### What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Orkney Islands Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Stuart Cathro  
HM Inspector