



**Lhanbryde Primary School  
and Nursery Class  
The Moray Council  
2 March 2010**

We published a report on Lhanbryde Primary School and Nursery Class in March 2009. That report set out key strengths of the school and main points for action.

This follow-through report is based on an inspection visit which was carried out in January 2010. It tells you about improvements since the original inspection in the quality of education which the school<sup>1</sup> provides. It also comments on how the school is getting on with the main points for action. First we focus on changes in the core work of the school. We explain how the school has got better at helping children to learn and benefit from being at the school. Next we look at the key processes which enable this to happen, including the involvement of parents<sup>2</sup>. Our report also describes developments in the 'ethos' of the school, by which we mean how well children are cared for and how much is expected of them in all aspects of school life. Finally we comment on improvements in leadership to help the school achieve its aims.

A copy of this report has been placed on the HMIE website [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk). Where applicable, you will also find descriptions of good practice in the school and analyses of questionnaire returns.

---

<sup>1</sup> The term 'school' is used to include the work of the nursery class, where relevant.

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this report, the term 'parents' should be taken to include foster carers, residential care staff and carers who are relatives or friends.

## **Contents**

1. The school
2. Particular strengths of the school
3. How well do children learn and achieve?
4. How well do staff work with others to support children's learning?
5. Are staff and children actively involved in improving their school community?
6. Does the school have high expectations of all children?
7. Does the school have a clear sense of direction?
8. What happens next?

### **1. The school**

Lhanbryde Primary School and Nursery Class serves the village of Lhanbryde and the surrounding area. The headteacher at the time of the original inspection has been absent since the inspection. The acting headteacher has been in post since January 2009.

## **2. Particular strengths of the school**

- The improved pace of learning which meets children's learning needs more fully and is helping them to make more progress.
- Children's achievements, particularly from P4 to P7.
- Greater involvement of all staff in self-evaluation to ensure school improvement.
- The leadership and support of the acting headteacher in managing change.

## **3. How well do children learn and achieve?**

Attainment in English language and mathematics shows signs of improvement. Children now write using a wider range of styles for different purposes and know how to improve their writing. Their skills in using computers to handle information are developing well. Education authority staff have worked closely with teachers to develop the curriculum. Together they have been successful in improving children's literacy and numeracy skills. Staff provide more opportunities for children to think for themselves, for example by explaining how they have tackled mental calculations. The acting headteacher has improved the arrangements to support, review and evaluate children's individual learning needs. Children have more tasks and activities that meet their learning needs. The rate of learning is now better and most children are making suitable progress.

#### **4. How well do staff work with others to support children's learning?**

Communication with parents is now better. Staff and children have led stimulating workshops on the work of the school. As a result, parents now have a better understanding of how the school is developing *Curriculum for Excellence* and how learning is becoming more active. Parents in the primary classes now receive helpful, advance information about their children's homework and how they can help. Any concerns or complaints are now resolved quickly and satisfactorily.

#### **5. Are staff and children actively involved in improving their school community?**

Children enjoy taking on more responsibilities. Every child from P4 to P7 is involved in groups which lead to improvements. These include promoting healthier food choices, making the school more eco friendly and providing more interesting library books. The pupil parliament is currently making helpful suggestions to improve the rewards system and lunch and playtime arrangements. Children use learning logs to provide helpful comments about what they have learned and what they need to improve. Children contribute well to reports which are shared with parents. Staff now have more opportunities to share ideas and good practice. As a result, learning and teaching approaches are now better. Staff are now fully involved in monitoring and evaluating the work of the school. By improving how they plan and assess what children learn, staff ensure that children are making better progress. The acting headteacher holds regular discussions with groups of children. This has resulted in improvements in children's learning.

## **6. Does the school have high expectations of all children?**

The school continues to make everyone feel welcome. Children have very positive relationships with their teachers and feel safe and fairly treated. Staff now have higher expectations of what children can achieve. Children respond well to the challenges set. Staff are making more use of assessment information from nursery staff to help younger children to achieve more success. All staff support the health and wellbeing of children very well.

## **7. Does the school have a clear sense of direction?**

Leadership of the school is much improved. Under the strong leadership and support of the acting headteacher, staff are now much clearer about how they want the school to improve. School staff now use more effective methods to assess and improve the school's performance. As a result, children are making better progress in their learning. The planning and assessment of children's learning is now better across the school. Staff are working together well to provide a better education for children. Overall, Lhanbryde Primary School has the capacity to continue to improve.

## **8. What happens next?**

There is clear evidence of improvement and the school now performs well overall. Improvements in performance, meeting learners' needs and self-evaluation are now at a satisfactory or better level. More remains to be done to improve attainment. With continued strong leadership, commitment of staff and support from the authority, the school is well placed to continue to improve. Our District Inspector will maintain contact with the education authority to monitor improvements in attainment. We will make no further visits in connection with the March 2009 report.

**HM Inspector:** June Graham, 2 March 2010

When we write reports, we use the following word scale so that our readers can see clearly what our judgments mean.

excellent	means	outstanding, sector leading
very good	means	major strengths
good	means	important strengths with some areas for improvement
satisfactory	means	strengths just outweigh weaknesses
weak	means	important weaknesses
unsatisfactory	means	major weaknesses

If you would like to find out more about our inspections or get an electronic copy of this report, please go to [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk).

Please contact us if you want to know how to get the report in a different format, for example, in a translation, or if you wish to comment about any aspect of our inspections. You can contact us at [HMIEenquiries@hmie.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:HMIEenquiries@hmie.gsi.gov.uk) or write to us at BMCT, HM Inspectorate of Education, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA.

Text phone users can contact us on 01506 600 236. This is a service for deaf users. Please do not use this number for voice calls as the line will not connect you to a member of staff.

You can find our complaints procedure on our website [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk) or alternatively you can contact our Complaints Manager, at the address above or by telephoning 01506 600259.

Crown Copyright 2010  
HM Inspectorate of Education