
HM Inspectors of Schools

Follow-up to the Inspection of Craigellachie Primary School The Moray Council

Main points for action

1. *To improve attainment in English language the school should review those aspects of its programmes covering handwriting, spelling and punctuation.*

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

Staff had reviewed and improved the programme for English language. New resources had been purchased to support the revised programme. Staff had established clear and appropriately high expectations of the quality of pupils' handwriting, spelling and punctuation. As a result of these actions there had been a marked improvement in pupils' attainment in their classwork.

2. *To improve attainment in mathematics the school should provide more opportunities for mental calculation and for using computers to handle information. There should also be more systematic coverage of the strategies for problem solving.*

This recommendation was being addressed very effectively.

The education authority had provided useful advice and staff development on activities aimed at raising standards in mental calculation. Staff now placed a greater emphasis on mental calculation and there had been a marked improvement in pupils' mental skills.

Working with a consultant, staff had successfully identified gaps in pupils' skills in using computers to handle information. They ran a short-term development programme, resulting in a significant improvement in pupils' skills. One teacher, appointed co-ordinator for information technology, was now ensuring that development continued.

Staff had reviewed the programme for problem solving and new resources had been purchased to support the revised programme. Pupils at all stages were now successfully applying a wider range of strategies to problem solving tasks.

Overall, these steps had contributed to improving pupils' attainment in important aspects of their classwork.

3. *The school should increase the frequency of religious observance.*

The school had fully met this recommendation.

The headteacher had arranged for assemblies to be held weekly. They were conducted by a member of staff or the school chaplain and provided appropriate opportunities for religious observance.

4. *National Tests should be used whenever a teacher believes that a pupil has achieved the appropriate level.*

The school had met this recommendation.

National Tests in reading, writing and mathematics were now being used in accordance with national advice. All pupils were tested and good use was being made of the assessment information gained.

5. *Planning for lessons in environmental studies should set out more clearly the main activities, the key objectives and how progress is to be assessed.*

The school had made good progress with this recommendation.

Teachers' plans now clearly identified key facts and skills which pupils should learn. They had also identified appropriate assessment activities, which allowed them to record pupils' progress and attainment within environmental studies.

6. *The school and education authority should address the safety issues highlighted in the report.*

The school and the education authority had made very good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

The school and the education authority had fenced off the pond and covered the surface with netting. A fire alarm had been installed in the hut.

No further visits will be made to the school by HM Inspectors of Schools in connection with the inspection report of June 1998.