

23 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Barrhead High School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher in creating a culture where all staff and young people lead change and improvement effectively across the school. These changes are well informed by robust approaches to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school. All members of the school community are highly committed to creating the very best experiences for young people. The school vision underpins all of the work of the school and drives a culture of very high expectations.
- The very strong use of digital technology by teachers to motivate learners and provide them with very high quality feedback. As a result, young people enjoy learning, and are able to confidently discuss their strengths and their next steps. Commendably, parents/carers are also able to access a digital platform to further support learning at home.
- The school's outstanding approach to seeking and acting upon the views of young people. Young people feel respected and highly valued. They are fully involved in decisions about important aspects of the daily life of the school. This approach to empowering young people is resulting in a strong sense of belonging and high levels of motivation.
- The school's excellent approach to working with partners to support and plan for young people's health and wellbeing. Supports are planned carefully with the full involvement of young people and families. This ensures that the needs of individuals and groups of young people are a high priority and are very well met.
- The very strong focus on the progress of young people. Staff use data exceptionally well to ensure all young people are supported to achieve their very best. As a result, attainment is very strong and young people at all stages make very good progress in their learning.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from East Renfrewshire Council.

- Continue to build on highly effective practice in learning, teaching and assessment.
- Develop approaches to skills development so that young people can confidently discuss what they gain from their participation in wider achievements.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Barrhead High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	excellent
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

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

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and Review](#) | [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. East Renfrewshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Ann Floyd
HM Inspector