

26 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Aidan's 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 effective leadership of the headteacher, supported by her senior leadership team, which has ensured a strong commitment to improvement across the school. This is supporting strong leadership at all levels and a collaborative culture where staff 'seek the best for young people in Faith and learning'.
- The very well-planned work of the Learning and Teaching Working Group, through which teachers reflect together on their practice. This is leading to improvements in young people's learning experiences.
- The strong sense of community and the respectful, nurturing environment based on Gospel values. Young people have pride in their school.
- The wide range of very effective targeted support offered to young people and their families which is leading to improved attainment and broader personal achievements.
- The very high quality learning in music, inspiring large numbers of young people to demonstrate assured, expressive and imaginative performances of vocal and instrumental music.

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

- Continue to improve learning and teaching across the school to ensure that all young people experience high-quality learning which meets their needs consistently.
- Continue to explore and clarify the roles and responsibilities of staff in supporting the wellbeing of all young people. This should include regularly reviewing the wellbeing and personal support programme and improving approaches to identifying and measuring progress in all aspects of health and wellbeing.
- Continue to work together to develop confidence in teachers in the use of National Benchmarks. This will help to improve the rigour and reliability of professional judgements about young people's attainment from S1 to S3. This will also help to inform decisions about the appropriate levels of study for young people as they move through the school.

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 St Aidan's High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/north-lanarkshire/8517436>

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. North Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Frances E Graham
HM Inspector