

23 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Columba's R C 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 positive learning environment created by the headteacher, senior leaders and staff. As a result, young people are friendly, courteous and proud of their school community. The strong Catholic ethos and Gospel values demonstrated across the school community are helping to drive the positive relationships between the young people and staff.
- Young people attain very well in numeracy across the school and are achieving better than learners with similar needs and backgrounds across Scotland.
- Young people are developing important skills such as communication, team working and leadership through their involvement in out of class activities. For example, the Pupil Parliament, where young people are developing important citizenship and communication skills.

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

- Continue with current plans to develop the curriculum to help raise attainment at all stages.
- Teachers should continue to develop a shared understanding of applying national standards and expectations around the quality of learning, teaching and assessment.
- Continue to improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment at all stages. Teachers should continue to improve approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment. This will help to ensure all learning activities are set at the appropriate levels of challenge for all young people.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Columba's R C High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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. Fife Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

JohnPaul Cassidy
HM Inspector