

1 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Pebbles Academy Dunfermline. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the interim Executive Head and staff.

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

- The new education staff team are making the school a safe, caring and welcoming place for learners. Most young people are building positive relationships with staff based on mutual trust, dignity and respect.
- Education staff participate well in a wide range of career long professional learning. Most staff are developing the necessary skills and attributes to become trauma informed practitioners.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the interim Executive Head and a representative from Pebbles Care Limited.

- Senior leaders and education staff need to work closely with psychologists and care staff to improve young people's attendance as an immediate priority. In doing so, they should aspire to have all young people following bespoke full-time learning programmes.
- Teachers need to develop the curriculum particularly at the senior phase. Young people need to access a broader range of learning pathways which provide accreditation and are in line with their interests and aspirations.
- Senior leaders and staff need to improve young people's attainment and achievement. In taking this forward, senior leaders must identify purposeful ways to measure the performance of the school. This will help determine what needs to improve in order to raise young people's attainment and achievement.

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 Pebbles Academy Dunfermline

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=2499>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Pebbles Care Limited regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Pebbles Care Limited the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Steven McPherson
 HM Inspector