

27 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We are trying out some new approaches to inspection. You can find out about our engagement with stakeholders and resulting 'try-out' approaches at our [New approaches to inspection](#) on our website. Your school was inspected using one of our new approaches during December 2017. A team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited your school for a total of two days in December 2017. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers, young people, partners and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- The leadership of the headteacher and depute headteachers in developing a culture of improvement. They are all regarded highly by young people, parents, staff and partners.
- The school's commitment to its shared values. This is reflected in its work to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment which results in young people and staff having a strong sense of belonging to the school.
- The leadership development of staff and young people across the school.

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

- Involve young people, parents and partners more in shaping school improvement. This could be through involving them in identifying priorities for improving the school. They could also be engaged in evaluating the progress made towards achieving the priorities set for improvement.
- Continue to raise attainment whilst ensuring that by the time young people leave school they have achieved the best possible set of qualifications. This will be supported through continuing to develop systems for checking that young people are making the best possible progress, particularly those from S1 to S3.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Kilwinning Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Self-evaluation for self-improvement	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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 will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://www.education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/north-ayrshire/8217831>

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

Marie McAdam
HM Inspector