

9 May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Woodmill High School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the quality of leadership, learning and teaching and young people's achievements and wellbeing.

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

- Staff's contribution to a wide range of clubs, activities and opportunities for personal development which are offered to young people.
- The strong partnerships which the school has developed, including a clear focus on helping young people to continue with education and employment on leaving school.
- The support provided by guidance and support for learning staff. In particular, the proactive steps they take to meet the needs of young people who require additional support with their learning and development.
- The supportive and nurturing ethos in the Department of Additional Needs (DAS), and the opportunities for these young people to be included in the life of the school.

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

- Continue to develop the leadership skills of staff and young people to drive well-paced change.
- Ensure that systematic self-evaluation, as a responsibility for all staff, leads to clear identification of priorities which result in timely improvements for young people.
- Improve the quality of learning experiences to meet the needs of all young people.
- Continue to raise attainment and develop assessment to ensure that young people are making appropriate progress across the curriculum.

**Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school.** You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*<sup>1</sup>? 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 Woodmill High School:

<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/reports/fife/5446430>.

### What happens next?

Our Area Lead Officer will work with Fife Council to monitor the school's progress with the agreed areas for improvement. Within a year of the publication of this letter, we will ask Fife Council for a report on the school's progress. We will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve another inspection visit. We will ask Fife Council to write to you detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take.

Joan C. Esson  
HM Inspector

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<sup>1</sup> How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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