

19 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Moore House Care and Education Centre
Bathgate**

In March 2016, HM Inspectors published a report on your child's school. The report set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and young people and worked closely with senior managers and staff. We heard from senior managers and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's and young people's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

Increase expectations of learners' experiences and improve staff's skills and confidence in planning and delivering high quality learning activities.

The school environment for learning has been improved with an extensive refurbishment of the school building. Children's and young people's experience of learning is enhanced by bright well-appointed classrooms with wall displays of their own classwork throughout the school. Across the school staff have formed nurturing and supportive relationships with children and young people. Led by senior managers, staff have raised expectations of what children and young people can achieve across the school. Despite an improving picture, the quality of learners' experiences are still variable across the school. Many learning activities are still insufficiently demanding with pace of learning often too slow. All education staff participate in worthwhile professional learning which is helping to provide a stronger focus on planning and delivering high quality learning activities. This has included working with colleagues from other schools and agencies.

Improve children's and young people's attainment and achievement at the broad general education and senior phase.

Since the previous inspection in March 2016, based on the school's own data, there is an improving picture in terms of qualifications and awards gained by young people at the senior phase. This year, young people are projected to gain a wider range of National Qualifications including curricular areas such as physical education and art and design. At the broad general education, most children and young people are now making satisfactory progress in developing their literacy and numeracy skills. There remain a few children and young people who could achieve more than they

are currently doing both at the broad general education and senior phase. Children and young people would benefit from more opportunities to develop their literacy and numeracy skills across other subject areas.

Develop the curriculum in line with national guidance and ensure challenge and progression across the school.

Staff are developing a shared understanding of the importance of the curriculum to improve life chances for all children and young people. The school day has been lengthened and there have been a number of improvements to the curriculum since the previous inspection in March 2016. Popular courses in Spanish, drama and personal and social education have been introduced. Young people at the senior phase have more choice in their selection of subject options with the offer of accredited courses including photography and electrical installation. Many children and young people are accessing classes in local mainstream schools. Staff now need to ensure that the continuing design of the curriculum provides children and young people access to structured programmes across all curricular areas. This should include more opportunities for digital learning, sustainability and learning outdoors. The school is working successfully with Skills Development Scotland to support young people into further education, training or employment when they leave school.

Take a more rigorous approach to monitoring learning and teaching and tracking children's and young people's progress.

The joint heads of education have provided clear leadership and direction in moving the school forward. Aably supported by the principal teacher, they have provided far more structure to the school day. Formal monitoring of learning and teaching approaches have been introduced with teachers receiving helpful feedback on their practice. Given the continued inconsistent quality of learners' experiences, senior managers now need to provide increased support and challenge to education staff. A promising start has been made in developing systems to better track and monitor children's and young people's progress with their learning. Staff need further support to build their confidence in assessing how well children and young people are progressing.

What happens next?

The school has made some progress since the original inspection. We are satisfied that most of the school's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. Our Lead Officer for Independent Special Schools will work with the school to build capacity for improvement and will maintain contact to monitor progress. The Board of Governors will inform parents of the extent to which the school has improved within nine months of publication of this letter.

Steven McPherson
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.