

10 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Westhill Academy. 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.

- Young people who are hardworking, dedicated and diligent. They are keen to take an increasingly active role in their learning, and in the life and work of the school.
- Strong attainment in the senior phase, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from Aberdeenshire Council.

- Senior leaders, working with parents and young people, should continue to develop approaches to contribute to a more positive school ethos. This includes approaches to achievement that value, share and celebrate young people's successes across the whole school community.
- Senior leaders should develop strategic approaches to learning, teaching and assessment that result in a more consistent, engaging and motivating learning experience for all young people. This includes teachers setting tasks and activities at the right level of difficulty.

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 Westhill Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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 (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Westhill Academy | Inspection Report | 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. Aberdeenshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Guch Dhillon
HM Inspector