

20 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Harris 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.

- The headteacher's aspirational and authentic leadership, ably supported by his senior leadership team, is resulting in consistently high-quality learning, teaching and assessment across the school.
- Staff provide calm, purposeful environments, conducive to learning and provide effective support for young people in and out of classrooms. Staff and young people enjoy trusting relationships which help young people to progress very well in their learning.
- Young people are very proud of their school, kind to each other and eager to learn. They enjoy a wide range of experiences across the school. They feel valued and listened to. Young people are empowered to lead in a wide range of areas. They achieve very well, particularly from S1 to S3 in literacy and numeracy.
- The 'Harris pledge' is embedded in every aspect of the school and is clearly understood by young people, parents and staff. Through a wide range of out of school activities, leadership roles and career focused experiences, young people are developing essential life skills that prepare them well for their future.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to giving regular feedback on their learning to young people from S1 to S3. This will allow young people to reflect more effectively on their progress and next steps in learning.
- Continue to improve attainment, particularly at S4 in the senior phase.

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 Harris Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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:

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

Frances E. Graham
HM Inspector