

11 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

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

- Relationships between young people, and young people and staff are positive and respectful. As a result, young people have a strong sense of pride in their school and community.
- The wellbeing of young people lies at the heart of the school for all learners. As a result, young people feel safe, included and well supported.
- All young people achieve a positive destination when they leave school as a result of ongoing support and advice on future pathways.

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

- All staff should continue to ensure there is high quality learning and teaching in all lessons. This should include a focus on planning tasks and activities set at the right level of difficulty to meet the learning needs of all young people.
- Senior leaders should further develop approaches to evaluate the work of the school. This will help to ensure that staff at all levels are more confident at applying national standards to all aspects of change and improvement.
- All staff need to work together to raise attainment and aspiration at all stages across the school. This will help to ensure learners achieve outcomes in line with other young people in similar contexts across Scotland.
- Raise attainment in the senior phase, with a particular focus on English, maths and top-quality passes across all subjects.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Ayr Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>weak</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Ayr Academy | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with South Ayrshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 18 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with South Ayrshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Carolanne Calderwood  
HM Inspector