

21 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Wick High School. 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 leadership of the acting rector in creating an aspirational culture, well supported by depute headteachers and faculty heads. This is underpinning collaborative approaches by all staff which are improving outcomes for young people.
- Positive relationships which support a climate for learning. Staff and young people treat each other with respect. This fosters a calm and orderly learning environment.
- Young people who identify strongly with their community. They are friendly, keen to learn and take pride in their contributions to the life and work of their school and local area.

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

- Create learner pathways which meet better the needs of all young people. This includes working more closely with partners to plan a wide range of experiences. This will support young people to maximise their individual skills and talents in their future lives.
- Further develop approaches to the health and wellbeing of young people as a whole school responsibility. This includes providing young people with more opportunities to be actively involved in decision-making.
- Raise attainment by setting appropriate and aspirational goals for young people that promote ambition and support learners to achieve the best outcomes possible. Developing further consistent approaches to assessment will enable staff and young people to identify effective targets which will meet better young people's learning needs.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Wick High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [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. The Highland Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Jacqueline Gallagher
HM Inspector