

24 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St John's RC 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 new headteacher, who is establishing foundations for the school's future direction and progress. He is beginning to change and improve structures and processes across the school and is promoting collegiate working.
- The ways in which the strong Marist values influence the work of the school. This is clear in the school's focus on improving young people's presence, participation and progress.
- The increasing range of valuable opportunities available to young people helping them to lead healthy and active lives.
- Young people in the senior school are positive role models and demonstrate enterprising leadership, creative teamwork and active citizenship.

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

- Senior and middle leaders should lead the development of a sustainable and manageable model for the leadership of change at all levels that leads to positive outcomes for all young people. This includes improving the thoroughness with which they identify strengths and weaknesses in the school.
- Staff at all levels should work together more effectively to improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment. Their focus should include, as a priority, providing curriculum and learning pathways that meet the needs and aspirations of all young people.
- All staff should continue to develop and demonstrate inclusive practice, to meet the wellbeing and learning needs of young people fully. Staff should continue to improve their understanding of their roles and responsibilities in ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion in order to improve outcomes for all young people.
- Staff should, as planned, review their approaches to equity funding to ensure they appropriately target the young people for whom the Pupil Equity Fund is designed. Staff should demonstrate, through better tracking and monitoring, how young people living at economic disadvantage attain better outcomes as a result of this additional funding.

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 St John's RC High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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: <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4581>

What happens next?

We will ask Dundee City Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within 12 months of the publication of this letter. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve another inspection visit. Education Scotland will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with Dundee City Council.

Frances E. Graham
HM Inspector