

24 June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Donaldson's School, known as the Sensational Learning Centre. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the centre's work.

- The headteacher and staff work very well together to create an inclusive and nurturing environment where children and young people feel safe and cared for. Relationships between children, young people and staff are positive, trusting and based on the promotion of children's rights.
- Children and young people across the centre are respectful and enthusiastic learners, who work hard and achieve their goals. They demonstrate their skills and knowledge well.
- Staff undertake a wide range of valuable professional learning to increase their expertise in understanding neurodiversity and improve communication between staff and learners. This is improving the quality of teaching across the school and enhancing staff's understanding of learners' needs.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from the Donaldson's Trust.

- Senior leaders should work with staff to improve approaches to assessment and tracking and monitoring. This should help ensure that children and young people have a clearer understanding of their next steps in learning and long-term goals.
- Senior leaders and staff need to improve the curriculum offer. Children and young people should be able to access a wider variety of learner pathways, including more opportunities to gain qualifications and awards.

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 Donaldson's School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
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: [Donaldson's School | 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 Donaldson's Trust will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Tracie McEwan
HM Inspector