

5 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Kilgraston School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and young people, and worked closely with the headmistress and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning and teaching, boarding provision and children's and young people's success and achievements.

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

- Happy, articulate and kind children and young people who are very proud of their school. They thrive in the stimulating environment for learning, and make the most of the extensive range of enriching activities and learning experiences offered to them.
- The highly effective leadership of the headmistress in leading change and in securing improvement through self-evaluation. She is very ably supported by the senior leadership team. Their dedicated, inclusive approach is ensuring equity of opportunity for all.
- High-quality approaches to learning and teaching across the junior and senior schools, which is leading to very positive levels of attainment.
- The commitment of all staff across the school and boarding houses to creating an ethos of nurture, where children and young people feel safe, valued and respected. The goals of the Sacred Heart Network are demonstrated by all in the day-to-day life of the school.
- The successful approaches to wellbeing and inclusion which underpin the work of all. Children and young people are very well supported in school and in boarding houses. Staff work together closely to ensure the individual needs of all children and young people are met.
- The range of mutually beneficial partnerships and networks that the school has established, within the local community and beyond. The Kilgraston School community value these partnerships and go the extra mile to share their expertise and resources for the benefit of others.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headmistress and Board of Governors.

- Continue with plans to create a more streamlined approach to record-keeping, including systems for tracking and monitoring progress in attainment and achievement, and for pastoral care.
- Continue with plans to increase opportunities for children and young people to shape and lead the direction of their own learning.

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 Kilgraston School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the boarding provision

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	very good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	very good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the school had no requirements and one recommendation. This recommendation was met. As a result of this inspection, there are two recommendations.

Recommendation:

1. In order to meet the full range of needs of children and young people, the provider should improve the quality of personal plans.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that ‘my personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices’ (HSCS 1.15).

2. In order to ensure that only suitable staff are appointed to work in the service, the provider should carry out appropriate pre-employment checks before any new staff start work.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that ‘I am confident that people who support and care for me have been appropriately and safely recruited’ (HSCS 4.24).

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/perth-and-kinross/5380332> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#)

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 Board of Governors will inform parents/carers about the school’s progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of the school’s provision.

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any requirements and recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

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HM Inspector

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