

21 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Preston Lodge 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.

- Strong relationships between staff and young people create a calm learning culture where young people are proud of their school. Individual staff support young people well to achieve in many aspects of school life.
- Partners, together with pupil support staff work well to provide individualised provision for young people who require targeted support. This helps young people to improve their wellbeing and to feel included and engaged in school.
- Staff work well together to support almost all young people into positive destinations beyond school.

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

- The headteacher should lead and develop a clear overview of all areas of the school. He needs to put in place effective methods for gathering evidence to identify the school's own strengths and areas for improvement. This should lead to clear priorities for improving the school and these should be agreed with staff, parents and young people.
- Senior leaders should ensure a whole school focus on providing tasks and activities which are set at the right level of difficulty for all young people. This should help ensure all young people's learning needs are met more effectively. All staff should work together to raise attainment for all young people from S1 to S6.
- Senior leaders should review the programmes of learning from S1 to S3 to ensure that young people access their full entitlements.
- Senior leaders need to develop a clearer overview of the purposes and effectiveness of existing support provisions. This includes improving attendance at school for identified young people.

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 Preston Lodge High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</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:

[Preston Lodge High School | 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 East Lothian Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Lothian 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.

Frances E. Graham  
HM Inspector