

11 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Portland 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.

- Senior leaders and staff build positive relationships with young people and their families. Staff are responsive to any changes in young people's needs or personal circumstances.
- Staff work well with partners in the local community to offer personal achievement learning experiences for young people. Young people enjoy participating in community-based learning activities. They are demonstrating valuable skills in communication, resilience and taking on responsibility.
- Young people develop useful employability skills through participating in the school's 'developing the young workforce' initiative. In 2024, all young people moved on successfully into further education, training or employment when leaving the school.

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

- Senior leaders and staff need to identify and adopt a wider range of approaches to support all young people to attend school regularly and on a full-time basis.
- Senior leaders should work together with staff to ensure all young people experience consistently high-quality learning activities.
- Staff should continue their work to raise all young people's attainment and achievement across the broad general education and senior phase.

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 Portland High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	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:

[Portland High School | Inspection Report | 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. North Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Steven McPherson
HM Inspector