

23 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Peebles 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.

- Almost all members of the school community continue to show resilience in responding to the ongoing challenges caused by previous periods of significant disruption.
- Strong relationships between almost all staff and young people result in positive learning experiences. Staff are working well together to improve learning, teaching and assessment. Almost all young people are polite and eager to learn.
- Staff in the enhanced provision have developed a caring and positive learning environment. They support young people well to make effective progress in their learning.
- Staff have maintained high levels of attainment for the majority of young people in the senior phase. Senior leaders and staff are beginning to implement approaches designed to raise the attainment of all learners.

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

- Senior leaders and staff need to improve the planning of learning, teaching and assessment in the Broad General Education. They need to develop approaches to ensure that all young people make appropriate progress in their learning.
- Staff should develop a clear understanding of how to identify and respond to all young people's individual learning needs.
- The strategic leadership of the school requires improvement. Senior leaders should monitor and evaluate the work of the school more effectively to identify priorities for improvement. They then need to evaluate how well these priorities are making a difference to improving outcomes for young people. This is especially important for the safeguarding of and raising the attainment and achievement of all learners.

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 Peebles 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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and Review](#) | [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 Scottish Borders Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within twelve months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Scottish Borders 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.

Patricia Cameron
HM Inspector