

11 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lesmahagow 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 and Inclusion Support Team's (IST) work.

- The headteacher, ably supported by her depute headteachers, has created a very positive ethos across the school and the Inclusion Support Team. This is built upon nurturing, supportive relationships that create a sense of inclusion, a strong sense of belonging and calm, purposeful learning environments.
- Young people who are proud of their school. Staff have strong, effective working relationships with partners in the community. Partners work well with staff to provide a wide range of helpful supports and activities for young people and staff. These help young people attend, attain and achieve.
- Staff check the progress of young people well at specific points across the year. They use this information effectively to support young people. As a result, young people, including those who require additional support with their learning, make very good progress in literacy and numeracy.

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

- Across the school, teachers should make greater use of ongoing assessment. This should help improve the pace in lessons and help more young people engage in appropriately challenging tasks and activities.
- Staff should continue to focus on improving the transition and build on prior learning between S3 and the senior phase. Staff should also work to improve the quality of passes in National Qualifications in order to raise attainment.

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 Lesmahagow High School.

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</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:

[Lesmahagow 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. South Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Frances E. Graham  
HM Inspector