

16 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**St Crispin's School
The City of Edinburgh Council**

In June 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and The City of Edinburgh Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

The school needs to take immediate action to review how it manages behaviour to ensure that it protects the wellbeing of all learners.

Overall, the school has improved how it supports children and young people and as a result, there are fewer incidents of challenging behaviour. Almost all staff have taken part in training to help them better understand and manage behaviour issues. Staff have a greater awareness of the issues that impact on the behaviour of pupils and they are making better use of information to make changes in areas such as timetabling and deployment of support staff. Staff are supported by monthly meetings, focused on reviewing positive behaviour strategies. We have asked the school to further reduce incidents and to ensure that the wellbeing needs of all children continue to improve. The school should also work with the local authority to review how staff report and record incidents to ensure there is consistency across all classes and that all incidents are being reported.

The school needs to focus all self-evaluation activities on improving outcomes for learners.

The school has recently developed new approaches to self-evaluation which include a three-year cycle of review. These approaches continue to involve parents and partners in identifying the school's strengths and areas for improvement. The school's improvement priorities based on self-evaluation should now have an increased focus on the national priorities including closing the attainment gap, as well as working towards fully implementing Curriculum for Excellence and further improving learning and teaching. Together with staff, the leadership team are committed to reviewing approaches to safeguarding. This has resulted in a reduction of recorded incidents. As

part of their self-evaluation, staff should review learning and teaching to identify and develop new ways of improving children's engagement in their learning. The school should identify links between high quality teaching and learning opportunities and positive behaviour.

Staff need to improve how they plan and deliver lessons in order to provide sufficient challenge for all children and young people.

In most lessons, children and young people are engaged in their learning. A range of communication approaches, individual to the needs of children and young people, result in good levels of engagement. In best practice, children use talkers, symbols or signs to complete tasks, interact with staff and show their understanding. There is scope to improve learning and teaching to ensure it provides appropriate progression and challenge for all learners. This will be of particular benefit to the new staff who have recently taken up post. Staff would benefit from reviewing their planning approaches to ensure they take account of the diverse range of learning needs in each class. The school would benefit from a further review of planned times for learning. Whilst timetabled activities such as snack offer good opportunities for development of skills in communication, there are periods of time when activities are unstructured and lack clear learning objectives.

What happens next?

The school has made some progress since the original inspection and 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 The City of Edinburgh Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents informing you of the progress the school has made.

Monica McGeever
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

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