

6 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Mary's Kenmure. 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.

- The effective headteacher who leads the school well. She has successfully promoted the value of education and learning across St Mary's Kenmure. Young people and families understand and appreciate the importance of education at the school.
- Education staff who have established a caring, purposeful culture across the school. All education staff enjoy positive relationships with young people. Young people feel valued and included in the life of the school.
- Teachers' continuous emphasis on encouraging young people to engage in learning activities and attain well. Learning activities are planned to meet young people's interests and aspirations. Most young people engage purposefully in learning and are highly motivated to achieve qualifications and awards.
- Young people's enthusiastic participation in physical exercise and sport. Many young people excel in sporting activities including swimming and football.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from the Board of Directors.

- The Board of Directors should develop a closer working relationship with young people and staff. In partnership with senior leaders, the Board of Directors need to implement robust approaches to monitor the quality of the work at St Mary's Kenmure. As an immediate priority, they must introduce ways to monitor closely child protection and safeguarding approaches.
- Staff should support young people to identify their skills and achievements. Young people need to have a better awareness of the progress they are making and how they can build on this in school and when they leave.

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 St Mary's Kenmure

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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](#)

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for St Mary's Kenmure are:

Quality Indicator	Evaluation
How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing?	adequate

The Care Inspectorate found:

- Service staff had formed good relationships with the young people.
- The service specialist intervention team provided detailed and comprehensive assessments of the young people's needs.
- Young people were making good progress in their care plans and school attendance was good.
- The service had responded appropriately to allegations against staff members.
- Child protection procedures had been miscommunicated to external stakeholders.
- Senior management arrangements needed to be clarified, particularly in relation to quality assurance and child protection matters.
- There was a need to improve and embed quality assurance processes to ensure consistently safe care.

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the setting.

- The provider must improve the reporting of all child protection concerns ensuring that all staff actions follow the service providers own policies which are in line with national guidance and best practice. This is to ensure that young people are protected and that investigation into concerns are robust and have appropriate external scrutiny and oversight.
- The provider must ensure that de-escalation strategies are person-specific and that that physical restraint is a means of last resort, and that young people are supported to regulate their emotions without physical intervention.
- The service provider must ensure there is continuous, robust evaluation of young people outcomes, experiences and their setting. All of this is underpinned through the implementation of high quality, SMART, care planning and risk assessment strategies.
- The provider must show evidence of notifications to the Care Inspectorate as per the guidance document "Records that all registered children and young people's services must keep and guidance on notification reporting".

Areas for improvement made by Care Inspectorate for the setting.

- To ensure the safety of young people in the service the service provider should conduct a lessons learned exercise regarding staff actions that resulted in disciplinary measures. The service should draw up an action plan to address any actions identified.
- To ensure consistent safe and stable practice is embedded across the service the service provider should complete an assessment of staffing levels.

What happens next?

We will visit St Mary's Kenmure within three months of the publication of this letter to review areas for improvement in leadership and management of staff. We will discuss with the Board of Directors the details of this visit. Following the visit, we will write to you as parents informing you of the progress St Mary's Kenmure has made.

Steven McPherson
HM Inspector

Thomas Mooney
Care Inspector