

4 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Ninian's 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.

- The headteacher's strategic planning of the school is excellent. His leadership has resulted in a school with aspects of the very best practice. Together with his senior leadership team, the headteacher has driven well-paced change to enable sustained and outstanding outcomes for young people over time.
- Staff as a team are very effective leaders of continuous improvement. They are committed to undertaking a range of professional learning, much of which is based on them learning with, and from, each other. Senior leaders are adept at recognising how staff's skills can contribute effectively to the leadership of the school.
- Young people are very successful in securing outstanding outcomes in attainment and achievement. They show a great respect for learning, with a high level of motivation and determination to flourish in a wide range of situations.
- There is a climate of aspiration in the school, which promotes that there is no limit to what can be achieved for the young people of St Ninian's High School. This is underpinned by gospel values, the Catholic faith, mutual respect and nurturing relationships. Young people feel they have extensive opportunities to achieve their potential, and develop their wellbeing.
- The headteacher, senior and middle leaders, and staff have a very effective focus on using information on young people's progress to develop a wide range of learning pathways. They have used the national programme, Developing the Young Workforce in an excellent way to prepare young people for employment. Partners such as parents, the church, employers, Skills Development Scotland, former pupils, colleges, universities and associated primary schools are integral to developing the curriculum.

The following area for improvement was identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from East Renfrewshire Council.

- Continue improving the school as identified in the school's improvement plan. This should include developing further the consistency of approach in high-quality learning, teaching and assessment.

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 Ninian's High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	excellent
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/east-renfrewshire/8602433>

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. East Renfrewshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Joan C. Esson
 HM Inspector