

28 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Mintlaw Academy. 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.

- A supportive learning environment that is built on positive, nurturing relationships. This helps to create a calm and relaxed ethos for learning.
- Articulate and friendly young people who are proud of their school community. Young people are gaining a range of skills and attributes through their involvement in a wide range of out of class learning activities.
- Staff who know young people's needs well. They provide a wealth of additional activities and opportunities for them to thrive and become more confident young adults.

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

- Continue to raise the attainment and aspirations of all young people at all stages.
- As planned, continue to refine approaches to monitoring the attainment, progress and skills development of all young people.
- Continue to embed new approaches to whole school improvement to enhance young people's learning experiences.

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 Mintlaw Academy

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:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [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. Aberdeenshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

JohnPaul Cassidy  
HM Inspector