

3 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2024, HM Inspectors published a letter on St Mary's Kenmure. The letter set out a key area for improvement which we agreed with the school and the Board of Directors. Recently, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to young people and worked closely with the headteacher and representatives from the Board of Directors. 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 recent inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made. This letter sets out what we found.

**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 safeguarding and child protection approaches.**

The Board of Directors have taken important initial steps to improve governance arrangements at the school. They have amended existing approaches to governance, aligning new approaches more closely with national guidance. Board members are now interacting directly with staff and young people to gather views. The Chair of the Board of Directors has recruited new members to the Board of Directors. He has ensured that newly appointed members bring skills and experience in monitoring key aspects of school performance. These include care, education and child protection and safeguarding. A new Director of Services has also recently been recruited, taking up post in June 2024.

The Board of Directors, supported by the newly-appointed Director of Services, now need to continue to review systematically the effectiveness of their governance approaches, particularly in relation to child protection and safeguarding.

### What happens next?

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. 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. The Board of Directors will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of the school.

Steven McPherson  
HM Inspector