

30 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St David's RC 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 has provided inspiration and aspiration to the school community. The shared vision and values, ASPIRE, provide a very strong sense of direction and purpose for St David's High School.
- A culture of empowerment exists where staff at all levels and young people take on leadership roles to take forward school improvements. Commendably all staff are initiating changes which are helping to ensure positive outcomes for young people. This is resulting in young people who attain well and are being well supported to achieve.
- The very effective work of the integrated pupil support team is leading to improvements in wellbeing, and young people feeling highly included and valued. They work together with partners in a creative, flexible and imaginative way to meet the needs of young people and their families.
- Highly effective approaches to parental engagement that result in parents having improved confidence in supporting their children's learning and development. School based family and parent support activities have a clear and consistent goal of improving wellbeing and learning.

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

- To build on the existing enthusiasm and collaborative practices of staff to continue improving the consistency of learning, teaching and assessment.
- Teachers should continue to develop approaches to assessing and monitoring young people's progress in the broad general education. This will support all young people to understand their own strengths and identify next steps in learning. Evidence from assessment should be used to plan effective interventions to raise attainment of young people.
- Senior leaders should review the curriculum to ensure that young people benefit fully from learning opportunities that meet their needs. For example, further developing partnership working to provide appropriate pathways for all learners.

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 David's RC High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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/midlothian/5546230>

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

John Reilly
HM Inspector