

12 November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Daldorch House School. During our visit, we talked to parents, young people and partners, and worked closely with the principal and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The caring culture across the school and houses. Staff regularly praise young people, give them positive feedback and celebrate their successes. This is improving young people's confidence and supporting them to re-engage in learning.
- The positive, compassionate relationships between staff and young people. This is helping young people to feel valued, respected and included.
- Young people's progress in improving their wellbeing. Supported by staff and partners, young people are successfully learning outdoors, participating in community events and developing their independence.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the principal and representatives from the National Autistic Society.

- Develop the curriculum and approaches to tracking young people's progress in line with national guidance. This will support education staff to build on prior learning and increase their expectations about what young people can achieve.
- Continue to develop approaches to involve staff, parents, partners and young people more fully in identifying school improvement priorities. This will empower the school community to influence and take forward change and improvements.
- Take action to address staffing issues to ensure that all activities for young people take place, as planned.

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 Daldorch House School

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings

Care Inspectorate Quality Indicators	Grade
How well do we support children and young people's wellbeing?	adequate
How good is our staff team?	weak
How good is our setting?	adequate
How well is care and support planned?	good

Requirements/Areas for improvement made by Care Inspectorate

- By 30 April 2020, the provider must progress arrangements to ensure that, for all service users aged under 16 years, any restrictions of liberty have the written consent of the young person's parent and (if applicable) their social worker. For those aged 16+ who have been assessed as lacking capacity to make decisions on their own behalf, if the provider deems it necessary to restrict their liberty, any such restrictions must be legally authorised under the terms of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. The provider must ensure that powers listed in individual Guardianship Orders are included in young people's care plans, that these are understood by staff and not exceeded. Where the provider assesses it necessary to apply any such restrictions not currently cited in

Guardianship Orders, they must advise legal guardians of the need to apply to the courts to vary the Order prior to including this in the young person's plan.

- By 31 December 2019, the provider must ensure that, for each person using the service, a record is kept of a four-weekly assessment of the direct care hours needed to ensure their physical, social, psychological and recreational needs and choices are met. The provider must also keep a record of how this informs staffing levels and the deployment of staff on each shift over each four week period and how it ensures the delivery of care for everyone using the service. This must also take account of the physical layout of the premises, staff training and staff supervision needs.
- The provider should finalise arrangements for ensuring young people all have access to other agencies and services who can support them to make their needs and preferences known.
- The provider should review mealtime arrangements in order to utilise these more effectively to promote life skills and social skills.
- The provider should carry out a full and detailed review of the staffing establishment for the school care accommodation service to ensure that it includes consideration of all assessed needs as identified in Requirement 2. This should include realistic allowance for staff leave and other absences, the range of meetings that staff are required to attend, key worker responsibilities including review and update of care plans and associated documentation, staff training, appraisal and supervision and the general support needs of newer staff.
- The provider should identify ways to increase opportunities for young people to be involved in food preparation and personal laundry.
- The provider should continue to develop a more concise, less labour-intense and more accessible approach to care and support planning. This should lend itself to a more dynamic approach to reviewing and updating and include targets for continuing support and progress.
- The provider should ensure that, as far as practicable, care plans and associated documentation reflect the involvement of young people in the planning process and take account of their views and preferences.

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-ayrshire/8280746>.

What happens next?

Education Scotland is confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The Care Inspectorate will return in 2019/20 for a follow-up inspection. The National Autistic Society will inform parents and carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Liz Angus
HM Inspector

Chris Barratt
Care Inspector