

27 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Arbroath 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 work of the recently appointed headteacher is beginning to support an improved structure to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school. She is developing a culture of teamwork which is valued by the school community.
- Young people are respectful and caring, and benefit from positive relationships with each other and staff.
- Young people are benefiting from a range of well-considered, targeted approaches that support their attendance and wellbeing.
- The work of the library is very effective in valuing and celebrating equality and diversity across the school.

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

- Senior leaders need to provide clearer strategic direction and streamline school priorities to ensure school improvement.
- Middle leaders should ensure that all staff monitor and evaluate their work so that the attainment of young people improves as a result.
- Classroom teachers should plan and deliver more engaging, varied and interesting tasks and activities set at the right level of difficulty for all young people.
- Senior leaders should improve staff's understanding of their roles and responsibilities in supporting the wellbeing of all young people.
- Teachers should review the curriculum for S1-S3 to ensure that young people build on their prior learning more effectively.

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 Arbroath High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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: [Inspection and Review | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Angus Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Angus Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Guch Dhillon
HM Inspector