

23 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Alloa 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.

- The headteacher is well established and respected across the school community. He provides effective leadership in motivating and empowering staff at all levels to improve learners' experiences. This is developing a shared ownership and clear understanding of improvement priorities with staff, young people, parents and partners.
- There is a calm and supportive learning environment throughout the school, built on strong and mutually respectful relationships between staff and young people. Young people are polite, attentive and ready to learn.
- There is a very nurturing ethos, with care for each individual young person. This includes a strong commitment to support young people who are care experienced. Learners and their families have a strong sense of belonging in the school and young people are well supported in moving forward into positive destinations.

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

- Senior leaders should support staff to use a range of appropriate evidence to measure the impact of improvement actions.
- Staff should consider how to improve the pace and depth of learning. Staff should use assessment evidence to plan appropriately challenging learner experiences across curriculum areas.
- Staff should focus on improving the quality of young people's attainment, especially as young people progress through the school.

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 Alloa Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | 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. Clackmannanshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Graeme Brown
HM Inspector