

7 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Robert Gordon's College and Nursery. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers, children and young people and worked closely with the Head of College and staff.

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

- The dynamic and astute leadership of the Head of College. Supported strongly by governors and promoted staff, he is leading a successful process of transformational change. His drive to promote equality, diversity and inclusion ensures that individuals' differences are respected and celebrated across the school and nursery community.
- Highly motivated, articulate and confident children and young people, who are rightly very proud to be 'Gordonians'. They make important and significant contributions to the school and local community, demonstrating kindness and empathy in their actions.
- The positive, nurturing culture created by all staff. Teachers and practitioners take time to get to know every learner as an individual. As a result, relationships are highly supportive and children and young people benefit from learning in a calm, caring environment.
- The extensive range of opportunities for children and young people to achieve success outwith the classroom. Staff and partners strive to provide sports, creative arts, clubs and activities that motivate and engage learners of all ages. They ensure that no-one misses out on these enriching pursuits.
- The outstanding, sustained levels of academic attainment across the school. Year on year, young people's very strong performance in examinations is frequently above national averages.
- The strong approaches to career long professional learning. Staff across the school are improving their practice through highly relevant research and enquiry projects.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Head of College.

- Continue to develop a shared understanding of teaching approaches that allow children in the nursery and young people at the secondary stages to demonstrate their creativity and innovation.
- Continue to build on children's and young people's engagement by giving them increased responsibility for leading and reflecting on their learning experiences.
- Continue to review the balance of adult-led activities and time for free play for children in the nursery. Provide more opportunities for children to explore, be creative and follow their own interests.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) 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 Robert Gordon's College and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the school	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>excellent</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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?

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

Lesley A Allan  
HM Inspector