

18 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Elgin 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.

- Young people are polite and benefit from a calm learning environment. They are proud of their learning environment and welcoming to visitors to the school.
- Staff run a wide variety of clubs and activities for young people at lunchtimes and after school. Young people demonstrate a range of useful skills in these activities including leadership and communication skills.

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

- Senior leaders should ensure that all teachers improve their understanding and delivery of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment. This will help to provide greater consistency, and raise aspirations, for young people across all curricular areas.
- Staff should meet the needs of all young people by ensuring tasks and activities are appropriate for all. This includes ensuring that tasks are set at the right level of difficulty for all young people to maximise progress in their learning.
- Senior leaders should work together with staff to raise attainment for all young people with a particular focus on numeracy across the school. They need to ensure systems and processes are in place to help more young people attain a higher level of qualification from S4 to S6.
- Senior leaders should continue to review what young people are learning across the school, particularly for young people in S4 to S6. They should consider carefully how well new courses being introduced are meeting the needs of young people and the value they add to young people's outcomes.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Elgin Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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?

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 Moray 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 Moray 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.

Susan McDade
HM Inspector