

25 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited St Mary's Music School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- The outstanding commitment from children and young people to work hard to produce the highest quality of music performance from an early age. They demonstrate great concentration, while making music using well-practised techniques, evidence of musical refinement and exceptional expressive musical maturity.
- The excellent quality of children and young people's attainment and achievement. This includes both their very high quality of musical attainment and their wider academic success.
- The outstanding quality of music teaching. Staff are passionate about supporting young people to reach the highest standards of musicianship in their chosen area of study. They demonstrate thoughtful well-planned teaching and strong supportive music assessment and monitoring practices.
- The relationships between the senior leaders, staff and children and young people. Staff support children and young people to understand the level of work to be undertaken while at the school to achieve their music and academic goals. They work very well together, supporting and caring for each other to achieve this.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher.

- Senior leaders and the Board of Governors should continue to work together to drive forward school improvement planning priorities and monitor all aspects of school performance.

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 St Mary's Music School

Quality indicators for the school	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	excellent
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: [St Mary's Music School | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#).

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the school care accommodation service are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Q1 - How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing?	good
7.1 - Children and young people are safe, experience warmth, compassion and get the most out of life	good
7.2 - Leaders and staff have the capacity and resources to meet and champion children and young people's needs and rights	good

Areas for Improvement made by the Care Inspectorate.

The Care Inspectorate made two Areas for Improvement:

1. In order to evidence that young people are fully protected, the service should make improvements to documentation to accurately reflect a clear audit trail of concerns to their conclusion.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) 3.20 which state that "I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities".

2. In order to ensure the needs of all young people are clear, the service should continue to develop Passports for Care for all young people who need enhanced support.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that "My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices". (HSCS 1.15)

Previous requirements made by the Care Inspectorate.

1. By 9 February 2024 the provider must ensure that young people experience high quality support and protection through effective protection practices. In order to do this they must, at a minimum;

- review the child protection policy and procedure and ensure that roles, expectations and timescales are clearly identified and understood by all staff
- ensure that the language used in the policy is conducive to nurturing care
- Develop an effective adult protection policy
- Schedule adult protection training for staff and ensure that staff are clear about the

circumstances in which an adult protection concern should be raised and their role and responsibilities.

This is to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) (welfare of users) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS)3.22 which states that: I am listened to and taken seriously if I have a concern about the protection and safety of myself or others, with appropriate assessments and referrals made.

Action taken to meet requirement:

The Care Inspectorate assessed that the service had met this requirement. However made an area for improvement in relation to documentation used to record concerns and their outcomes. See Area for Improvement 1.

2. By 9 February 2024 the provider must provide an environment that is suitable and pleasant for young people to live in. In order to do this they must, at a minimum, ensure that communal areas are clean, odour free and decorated and furnished to an acceptable standard.

This is to comply with Regulation 10(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (Fitness of premises) of The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS)5.22 which state that: I experience an environment that is well looked after with clean, tidy, well maintained premises, furnishings and equipment.

Action taken to meet requirement:

The Care Inspectorate assessed that the service had met this requirement. The service had made improvements to the environment making it a pleasant place for young people to live.

What happens next?

Education Scotland are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so 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.

The Care Inspectorate will continue to support the school to make improvements through the regulatory process.

Stuart Cathro
HM Inspector

Sandra Wright
Care Inspector