

12 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Strathaven 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's hard working and purposeful contribution to creating a calm and productive environment for learning.
- Teachers have developed a very strong understanding of national standards and expectations. This is enhanced by a planned programme of peer working across the local authority, led by the school leadership team. Young people in the senior phase are well informed about their strengths and next steps in learning.
- The high levels of attainment across S1-S3 and the senior phase. This is supported by thorough and robust approaches to tracking young people's progress through the school.

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

- Continue with planned work to embed the skills framework, so that young people can talk confidently about the skills they are developing.
- Teachers should continue to develop high quality learning, teaching and assessment. This includes the planning of tasks and activities that are engaging and set at the right level of difficulty for all young people.

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 Strathaven Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
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: [Find an inspection report | 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. South Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Donald Paterson
HM Inspector