

28 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kinlochleven High School - Àrd-sgoil Ceann Loch Liobhann. 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 newly appointed headteacher is making a positive start to providing clear strategic direction on how to improve standards. She is making well-judged decisions and has won the support of almost all parents, staff and young people.
- Young people are respectful, articulate and are keen to learn and achieve well. They appreciate when the support of the majority of the staff team helps them make progress in their learning.

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

- At pace, senior leaders and staff should improve the quality and consistency of planning and delivering high-quality learning and teaching. This should result in young people experiencing progressive and creative learning set at the right level of difficulty.
- Senior leaders and staff should develop a thorough, shared understanding of assessment and national expectations. Teachers need to have high expectations of young people's full potential to attain well.
- The staff team, working with partners as appropriate, should introduce a wider range of opportunities for young people to achieve and learn new skills. This should assist young people to be more confident, ambitious and aspirational.
- At pace, the staff team should raise young people's attainment to be at least in line, or above national standards. Senior leaders should support staff by continuing to review thoroughly young people's progress. They should continue to improve the curriculum to meet a full range of learners' needs.

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 Kinlochleven High School

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:

[Kinlochleven High School | Inspection Report | 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 The Highland 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 The Highland 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.

Joan C. Esson
HM Inspector