

13 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Baldragon 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.

- The headteacher, the senior leadership team and almost all staff have a clear understanding of the social, cultural, and economic context of the school. This helps them to provide caring and targeted support for individual young people and their families, including those who learn in the Enhanced Support Areas.
- Staff and partners work well together to provide young people with a range of opportunities for success, such as the School of Sport, the Baldragon Barista Academy, the Baldragon Bee Academy and the Rural Skills Group. As a result, young people develop important skills and qualities.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from Dundee City Council.

- Develop a school culture, underpinned by agreed school values, that promotes higher aspirations and expectations of all young people. This needs to focus on improving young people's attendance and late coming, and the attitudes to learning and behaviour of a minority of young people.
- Develop more robust plans, building on the 'Baldragon Way', to improve learning and teaching across the school. This should ensure that all young people benefit from high-quality learning and teaching that meets their needs effectively.
- Work with staff from the local authority to improve attainment as an immediate priority across the school, especially in S4, by S5 and by S6.
- Continue to develop effective approaches across the school that assist staff in reviewing regularly all young people's progress and in providing appropriate support that meets all young people's 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 Baldragon Academy

| Quality indicators | Evaluation |
|---|-----------------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | weak |
| Raising attainment and achievement | unsatisfactory |
| 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:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [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 Dundee City Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within six months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Dundee City 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.

Celia McArthur
HM Inspector