

27 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kemnay 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 benefit from a supportive learning environment where they are encouraged to do their best. Young people enjoy an increasing variety of rich learning experiences.
- Staff work very effectively with a wide range of partners, to support young people as they develop skills for life and work. As a result, the pathways for young people as they progress through Kemnay Academy are increasingly matched to their needs.
- Young people make good progress in attainment in literacy and numeracy as they move through the school.
- Staff are creative in the way they develop curricular opportunities to support young people to achieve.

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

- Staff should review their approaches to assessing progress and ensure that young people can discuss their strengths and next steps in learning.
- All staff should continue to develop ways to meet the wellbeing and learning needs of young people fully. Staff should continue to improve their understanding of their roles and responsibilities in ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion in order to improve outcomes for all young people.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to focus on improving the quality of passes at S5 and S6, in order to raise attainment. This should include monitoring and evaluating the impact of changes, including their curriculum.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Kemnay Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

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?

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. Aberdeenshire 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