

21 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cults 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.

- There is a calm and purposeful environment across the school. Young people benefit from a positive climate for learning. They value the high aspirations staff have for them and the support and encouragement provided for them to achieve.
- Skilful and creative use of digital technologies across the school is widening young people's access to learning and further strengthening their engagement and motivation to succeed.
- Young people benefit from caring relationships with a strong commitment to supporting their wellbeing. Children's rights are actively promoted across the school community. The well-led pupil support team work very effectively with each other, with school staff, and with partners to ensure positive outcomes for young people's wellbeing.
- Young people are attaining very well in National Qualifications. The school has sustained strong performance across levels over a number of years.

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

- Staff need to develop further their approaches to evaluating the quality of their work. As planned, this needs to include providing young people with a stronger voice in improving aspects of school life. This will help school leaders and all members of the community to identify and implement key areas of improvement more effectively.
- Continue to develop a broader range of approaches to learning and teaching. This needs to include strategies which encourage young people's thinking skills and increase the challenge and depth of their learning.
- Staff should ensure that all young people are aware of the broad range of learning pathways which are available to them. Senior leaders and partners should develop a strategy to fully implement the entitlements of the Career Education Standards. This should include relating learning experiences across all curricular areas to the development of skills to support young people in their future learning, life, and work.

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 Cults Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very 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:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/aberdeen-city/5235839>

### 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. Aberdeen City Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Carol McDonald  
HM Inspector