

26 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Gorgie Mills School. 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.

- Caring, nurturing relationships between staff and young people. This helps young people to feel safe, comfortable and able to engage with their learning.
- The school's success in improving outcomes for young people. Most young people consistently make better progress with their learning at Gorgie Mills School in comparison to their previous school placement.
- Outstanding approaches to support young people when they leave school. This is helping young people to be successful in work, training or further education.
- The use of learning conversations to support young people to reflect on how they are developing their skills for life, learning and work.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to self-evaluate the quality of the school's work. Young people, parents, partners and staff need to play a more prominent role in this process.
- Continue to develop the curriculum in line with national guidance. This will help to provide young people with more personalisation and choice in what they learn.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Gorgie Mills School

| Quality indicators | Evaluation |
|--|---------------------|
| Leadership of change | satisfactory |
| Learning, teaching and assessment | good |
| Raising attainment and achievement | good |
| Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion | 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:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/edinburgh-city/5500648>

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

Steven McPherson
HM Inspector