

1 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Turriff Academy. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteachers and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Young people are welcoming, confident and proud of their achievements. The majority of young people participate well in learning and the wider life of the school.
- The commitment of senior leaders and staff who work well together to improve the consistency of learners' experiences across the school. 'The Turriff Way' is supporting improved classroom routines experienced by learners.
- Staff work well with partners to support the curriculum, to enhance learning experiences, and to increase opportunities for young people's achievement.

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

- There is a significant need to improve strategic leadership at all levels in order to secure positive outcomes for young people. All staff should develop the approaches used to plan, implement and evaluate school improvements.
- Staff should continue to improve the quality of learning and teaching. They should develop their approaches to assessment and how they measure young people's progress over time. Senior and middle leaders need to develop the confidence of staff in making accurate judgements of young people's achievement of a level.
- Staff need to develop their understanding of their statutory duties relating to wellbeing, equality and inclusion. Senior leaders need to improve how staff at all levels meet the needs of young people who require additional support with their learning.
- Staff need to raise young people's attainment across S1-3 and with identified aspects of the senior phase.

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 Turriff Academy

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

[Turriff Academy | 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 Aberdeenshire 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 Aberdeenshire 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.

Patricia Cameron
HM Inspector