

9 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Mallaig High 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. Unless otherwise stated, they apply to both English and Gaelic Medium Education.

- The positive climate for learning based on a respectful and caring environment. The commitment of the wider school community to work well together to meet the needs of young people.
- The headteacher's creativity in tailoring the curriculum, through the medium of English, to meet the needs of young people within a unique island and rural context.
- The staff team's ownership and empowerment to use their professional learning to provide relevant and motivating learning experiences and qualifications for young people.

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

- Provide further opportunities for young people to evaluate their learning. Provide more leadership roles for young people and enable them to take a more active part in shaping change and improvement.
- Building on recent improvements, continue to raise attainment, particularly in numeracy and mathematics.
- Put in place strategic arrangements to support continuous improvement based on national Gaelic Medium Education policy and advice. Young people need more regular opportunities to develop their fluency in the language.

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 Mallaig High School

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

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=3586>.

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

Gary Johnstone  
HM Inspector