

29 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Airdrie 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.

- The headteacher is well-respected across the school and local community. He has worked extensively with stakeholders to develop the school's vision and values. These underpin staff's continued success in securing positive post-school destinations for almost all young people.
- Senior leaders and staff have created a nurturing and caring environment across the school. There are strong, positive relationships between staff and young people who feel a sense of belonging and pride in their school.
- Staff are working successfully, through the use of targeted approaches, to improve attendance, attainment and positive destinations for a few young people.
- Young people create and benefit from a wide range of leadership roles across the school. This involves young people working with local community partners to undertake charity and voluntary work.

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

- Senior leaders should work with middle leaders and staff to improve approaches to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school in key areas such as raising attainment and inclusion. Clear, streamlined leadership responsibilities are required to progress school improvement at an increased pace.
- Staff across the school need to develop a shared understanding of high-quality planning, learning, teaching and assessment. Young people should experience more engaging, motivating and consistently positive learning experiences.
- Senior leaders should ensure that staff are planning appropriately, to meet the needs of all young people who require additional support with their learning. Staff should develop a greater understanding of their responsibilities in relation to inclusion and attendance.
- Senior leaders should work with staff to raise attainment for all young people across the school. All staff need to ensure more effective approaches are in place to identify and support young people at risk of under-achievement.

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 Airdrie Academy

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

[Airdrie 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 North Lanarkshire 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 North Lanarkshire 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.

Stuart Cathro
HM Inspector