

19 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Doon 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 and all staff have created a caring culture within the school. They have improved the environment for learning, which results in young people being calm and settled in classes.
- Young people are welcoming and polite. They are keen to learn and work well with all staff.

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

- Senior leaders and teachers need to make sure the needs of all young people are met in classes. They should develop a shared understanding of high-quality teaching and learning. Teachers should explore ways to adapt their methodology to increase young people's motivation to learn and provide activities with the right amount of challenge.
- Senior leaders and teachers must improve attainment for all young people, with a particular focus on numeracy. Teachers should track learners' progress across all stages and make sure young people and their parents understand the progress being made.
- Senior leaders and teachers should ensure that they are offering suitable programmes of learning, with a stronger focus on senior phase options. These programmes should allow all young people to maximise their learning and so improve outcomes for all.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Doon Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	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: [Find an 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 East Ayrshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Ayrshire 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.

Susan McDade
HM Inspector