

1 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Choices 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.

- The leader of the school and principal teacher lead change and improvement effectively. They create a caring and nurturing environment for all young people and staff at Choices School.
- Young people at the school are responsible and polite, showing warmth and care towards adults and their peers. The nurturing ethos successfully supports young people to play a full part in the life of the school. They cope admirably with the challenges of returning to school.
- The united staff team use creative and imaginative approaches to engage young people well in learning. In almost all lessons, staff motivate young people well to enjoy daily success in an attractive and well-resourced learning environment.
- The school provides extensive opportunities for young people to experience achievement in the outdoors, in the local community and during lessons. Staff work very well with partners to offer a wide programme of healthy and challenging activities that build young people's social and communication skills very well.

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

- School leaders should work with staff to increase the pace of learning and the level of challenge. They should aim to gradually reduce the intensity of the support they offer learners, with a view to accelerating learners' independence and progress.
- Staff should work together to raise attainment across the curriculum by providing a broader range of subjects and course awards. This will support young people to gain a higher number of awards and more advanced National Qualifications.
- School leaders should review school improvement plans to reflect a narrower focus. This will help them to concentrate their efforts on the most important priorities.

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 Choices School

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

[Choices School | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

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

Tracie McEwan
HM Inspector