

1 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Charleston Academy - Acadamaidh Bhaile Thearlaich. 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.

- Young people are friendly, articulate and willing to learn. They enjoy mutually positive and respectful relationships with staff in a calm learning environment.
- All young people's learning of Gàidhlig (Gaelic) in S1 and S2 gives them an insight into the value of the language and culture. It is increasing the total number of learners of Gàidhlig at Acadamaidh Bhaile Thearlaich.
- The headteacher has a clear vision for improving learning, teaching and assessment. Young people's learning experiences are improving through teachers working together to agree an effective learning and teaching standard.

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

- Senior leaders should work with staff to improve attainment across curriculum areas in S1 to S3. They also need to improve young people's attainment in the senior phase, particularly in numeracy and overall outcomes by S6.
- Staff need to develop a shared understanding of standards and more effective assessment approaches across the school to make more reliable judgements on young people's progress.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to develop high-quality learning, teaching and assessment with a focus on meeting the needs of all young people. Strategies for targeted support should be consistently used in classrooms to meet the needs of all young people.
- Senior leaders should ensure that young people's Gàidhlig learning is more clearly part of strategic approaches to ensuring best outcomes for young people. This should continue to build on the strengths to increase the numbers achieving a qualification in Gaelic (Learners).

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 Charleston 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:

[Charleston 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 particularly in relation to young people's attainment. We will liaise with The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve and how the local authority will continue to support school improvement. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 18 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland 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.

Carolanne Calderwood-Glassford
HM Inspector