

29 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Carronhill School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Senior leaders have supported the school community effectively through the challenges of the pandemic. They work alongside staff well to promote the vision, values and aims of the school.
- Senior leaders use Pupil Equity Funding effectively to provide targeted support for identified learners. As a result, all young people have moved successfully onto further education or training upon leaving the school.
- Staff are attentive to the wellbeing needs of all children and young people. They work together well to provide care and support to learners across the school. As a result, children and young people feel safe, valued and cared for. All learners are maintaining high levels of attendance at the school.
- Children and young people show patience and kindness towards each other. They demonstrate resilience, tolerance and offer support to each other.

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

- Teachers need to adopt more creative and imaginative learning activities including increasing the use of digital technologies to further engage and challenge children and young people in their learning.
- Staff should further develop the broad general and senior phase curriculum to ensure all children and young people engage in relevant and progressive learning experiences to maximise attainment and achievement.
- Supported by senior leaders, staff need to develop a shared approach to raising the attainment and achievement of children and young people across the school. In taking this forward, senior leaders and staff need to work together to measure the attainment and progress of children and young people. To support this work the school should work in partnership with colleagues from neighbouring special schools.

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 Carronhill School

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

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page//?id=1968>

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

Emma McFarlane
HM Inspector