

3 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Woodlands 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 headteacher's effective leadership is having a positive impact on improvement across the school. An important first step has been the introduction of the base class model, which is supporting improvements in young people's learning experiences.
- The positive and nurturing relationships modelled between young people and staff. This helps young people to show consideration for each other. As a result, young people enjoy spending time together and establishing friendships.
- In the senior phase, staff work with partners effectively to broaden their awareness of further education, employability, and volunteering opportunities for young people. Staff are supporting young people to build life skills and make successful transitions beyond school.

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

- Senior leaders should involve all staff, young people, parents and partners in reviewing the school's vision, values and aims. This will ensure that the school has a clear and shared purpose to improve outcomes for all young people.
- Senior leaders and staff should develop further their approaches to how they measure young people's progress. Information gathered should be used effectively to help ensure all young people's learning is set at the correct level of difficulty.
- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to raise young people's attainment at the broad general education and senior phase.

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 Woodlands School

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

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and review](#) | [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. The City of Edinburgh 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