

23 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dornoch 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 solution focused approach of the senior leadership team and staff that ensures young people develop skills, attributes and experiences through their participation in out of class activities.
- The positive school culture and ethos that support young people to be courteous, mature, and responsible learners. Staff have high aspirations for young people and plan well to ensure that they meet the needs of their learners.
- The attainment of young people in National Qualifications. This is consistently in line with other schools who have young people with similar needs and backgrounds across Scotland.

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

- Senior leaders should build on existing approaches to share highly effective practice across the school to ensure all young people consistently experience high quality learning, teaching and assessment.
- Senior leaders should proceed as planned to implement strategies to improve attainment and achievement. This should include ensuring realistic, yet aspirational targets for young people to achieve.

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 Dornoch Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale.</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [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 Highland Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Frances E. Graham  
HM Inspector