

24 January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In November, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Auchinleck Academy. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the quality of leadership, learning and teaching, and young people's achievements and wellbeing.

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

- The strong strategic leadership provided by the headteacher is highly valued across the school community. Along with the senior leadership team, his consistent reinforcement of the shared vision and values has inspired and strengthened leadership across the school. High expectations have encouraged a climate of continuous improvement and raised the aspirations of young people.
- The school's nurturing and caring ethos, which runs through all aspects of school life, is promoting and developing the wellbeing of young people. This is evident in the high level of commitment of staff to continually improve the experiences and outcomes for all young people.
- The impact of steps taken to seek, listen and respond to the views of young people.
- Improvements in attainment in the senior school, particularly in literacy and numeracy. The school succeeds in supporting almost all young people to move to a positive destination on leaving school with increasing numbers entering higher education.

The following areas for improvement were agreed with the headteacher and East Ayrshire Council:

- Continue to monitor attainment over time to ensure that all young people have a path through the curriculum that allows them to make the best possible progress throughout their time in school.
- Continue to improve learning and teaching across the school. Whilst there are examples of high quality learning and teaching, there remains scope to provide a more consistent and engaging learning experience across all classes.
- Moving forward, senior leaders should continue to involve staff, parents, partners and young people in focussing and streamlining the school's priorities for improvement.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*¹? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Auchinleck Academy

Leadership of change	Very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very good

The letter and a more detailed summary of inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at: <https://education.gov.scot/reports/east-ayrshire/8243131>

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. East Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools. The Area Lead Officer will monitor the school's progress in fulfilling its statutory duty for religious and moral education.

Carol McDonald
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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