

FAMILY, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE – 30 MAY 2024

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF ARBROATH HIGH SCHOOL

In January 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Arbroath High School to undertake a full inspection.

During the visit, the inspection team spoke 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 work of the recently appointed headteacher is beginning to support an improved structure to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school. She is developing a culture of teamwork which is valued by the school community.
- Young people are respectful and caring, and benefit from positive relationships with each other and staff.
- Young people are benefiting from a range of well-considered, targeted approaches that support their attendance and wellbeing.
- The work of the library is very effective in valuing and celebrating equality and diversity across the school.

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

- Senior leaders need to provide clearer strategic direction and streamline school priorities to ensure school improvement.
- Middle leaders should ensure that all staff monitor and evaluate their work so that the attainment of young people improves as a result.
- Classroom teachers should plan and deliver more engaging, varied and interesting tasks and activities set at the right level of difficulty for all young people.
- Senior leaders should improve staff's understanding of their roles and responsibilities in supporting the wellbeing of all young people.
- Teachers should review the curriculum for S1-S3 to ensure that young people build on their prior learning more effectively.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Arbroath High School are as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 1.3 Leadership of change | weak |
| 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment | weak |
| 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion | satisfactory |
| 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement | satisfactory |

In the final letter published on 27 March 2024 Education Scotland indicated the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. Educational Scotland will liaise with Angus Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. A further inspection of the school will be undertaken within one year of the publication of the letter.

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings are available via this [link](#) on the Education Scotland website.

EDUCATION SCOTLAND INSPECTION OF FERRYDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

In February 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ferryden Primary School and Nursery Class to undertake a short model inspection.

During the visit, the inspection team spoke to parents/carers and children; and worked closely with the Head Teacher and staff. The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The positive 'family feel' culture in the school and nursery which is based firmly on the school values and a commitment to children's rights. As a result, children are confident, highly motivated learners who are very proud of their school.
- The effective leadership of the headteacher, ably supported by the depute headteacher. They have introduced effective processes to plan, track and monitor children's learning in the school and nursery which impact positively on children's attainment and achievement.
- The high-quality and creative approaches to learning and teaching both indoors and outdoors in the school and nursery. Teachers and practitioners are proactive in improving their skills and knowledge and work together very well as a highly effective team.
- In the school, teachers' success in embedding progressive approaches to digital learning. These approaches enhance children's learning experiences and extend their skills and knowledge.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Head Teacher and a representative from Angus Council:

- Continue to support children in the school and nursery to understand and talk about the skills they are developing through their learning experiences. This will help children to set next steps in their own learning journey.
- Continue to implement approaches to raise attainment for all children in the school and nursery. In the school, senior leaders should continue to develop their analysis of attainment data to carefully monitor the progress of specific groups of children over time.

Education Scotland's evaluations for Ferryden Primary School and Nursery Class are as follows:

PRIMARY STAGES

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment | very good |
| 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement | good |

NURSERY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment | very good |
| 3.2 Securing children's progress | very good |

In the final letter published on 26 March 2024 Education Scotland expressed confidence that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings are available via [link](#) this on the Education Scotland website.