

10 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dalry Secondary 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 positive, respectful relationships across the school community. Most teachers know young people well and provide effective personal support. This encourages young people to do their best and enhances their learning.
- The improved outcomes for young people in S4.
- Increasing opportunities for young people to gain accreditation in wider achievement activities. These activities have the potential to help young people to develop confidence and skills.

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

- Continue to improve the quality and consistency of teaching and learning across the school.
- Continue to develop all teachers' understanding of national standards through engagement with colleagues in school, across the school partnership and the local authority. This has the potential to raise attainment further and improve outcomes for young people.
- Develop further and embed the recently introduced approach to evaluating all young people's progress in their learning. Ensure that learning conversations are of a consistently high quality and result in learners agreeing ambitious targets and having clarity about their next steps in learning.

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 Dalry Secondary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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=2313>

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

John Reilly
HM Inspector