

27 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2018 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Ninian's High 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 outstanding leadership of the headteacher in promoting a culture of learning and high aspirations and developing a belief that 'anything is possible'. This is driving school improvement and empowering staff to initiate change and take forward developments that are improving outcomes for young people.
- The extremely positive learning environment. Strong relationships and high expectations across the school are resulting in highly motivated young people who engage well in their learning and are achieving success. They have a very good understanding of their progress and their next steps in learning.
- The very strong sense of shared values across the school community which is underpinned by the school's Catholic identity and reflected in every aspect of the school's work. This is central to the wellbeing, development and successes of young people.
- The consistently high levels of attainment of all young people. In particular, the school's work to improve equity is raising the attainment of those young people facing additional challenges.
- The creative approaches to developing partnerships which are enhancing learning opportunities and contributing to positive outcomes for young people.

The following area for improvement was identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from East Dunbartonshire Council.

- The school should continue, as planned, to develop aspects of learning and teaching to ensure appropriate support and challenge for all.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for St Ninian's High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	Excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	Very good
Raising attainment and achievement	Very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very 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 will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/east-dunbartonshire/8337934>

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

Mary Byrne
HM Inspector