

5 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Girvan 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 strong leadership of the headteacher, well supported by leaders at all levels. This is resulting in a positive culture of learning across the school, including in the support and wellbeing department.
- A comprehensive, effective system for tracking young people's progress in all curriculum areas from S1 to S6. This is helping staff to have a strong understanding of young people's attainment and next steps. It is also enabling them to provide young people with appropriate support to enhance their learning.
- Young people are attaining well and develop important skills for learning, life and work through an extensive range of activities.

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

- Further improve the consistency of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment, by building on examples of very strong practice that exist across the school.
- Teachers should further develop approaches to ensure young people understand more effectively the purpose of their learning and how they can be successful. They should increase levels of challenge for the most able learners.
- Continue to maximise attainment, especially those capable of attaining high-quality passes

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 Girvan 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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | 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. South Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Dr Celia McArthur  
HM Inspector