

20 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Edinburgh Secure Services (Howdenhall & St Katharine's Special 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.

- Partners provide valuable learning experiences that enable young people to participate in a range of sporting and physical activities.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The City of Edinburgh Council.

- As a matter of urgency, local authority officers and senior leaders need to improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment.
- The local authority and staff should take appropriate steps to improve young people's attendance and engagement with their learning.
- Senior leaders and staff need to plan better what young people will learn. In doing so, they must ensure that young people engage in learning activities which build on what they already know. Teachers should also improve approaches to measuring young people's progress with their learning.
- Senior leaders and staff need to improve young people's attainment and achievement.
- The service need to develop a high quality broad general education. They should develop learning pathways which support young people to develop their skills in literacy and numeracy.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Edinburgh Secure Services (Howdenhall & St Katharine's Special School)

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>unsatisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>weak</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:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [Education Scotland](#)

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with The City of Edinburgh Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within six months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The City of Edinburgh Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

David M<sup>c</sup>Kellar  
HM Inspector