

29 August 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Kentigern's Academy. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the quality of leadership, learning and teaching and young people's achievements and wellbeing.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The leadership of the headteacher in taking forward his vision for change, building the capacity of staff at all levels and setting high expectations to encourage a climate of continuous improvement.
- The commitment of staff in ensuring young people from all backgrounds are fully included in every aspect of school life.
- The impact on young people's learning from the team of pupil support workers. The benefit to young people of effective partnerships with teaching staff and the support workers' skills in engaging and supporting young people.
- The benefit to young people of the range of learning pathways available from S4 to S6 that suit their needs and aspirations. This includes an increased range of options leading to qualifications both within school as well as at college and neighbouring schools.
- The quality of enhanced transition arrangements and support which is helping young people with autism make a successful transition to the school and enabling them to participate in mainstream classes.

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

- Continue to build the leadership capacity of staff at all levels to create a more consistent high-quality strategic approach to school improvement.
- Develop a strategic overview within pupil support to ensure careful and appropriate allocation of resources to ensure all young people are fully supported.
- Further develop approaches to monitor and track learner progress to make sure there is timely, reliable data on the attainment of every learner. Staff could then consider how to put in place mechanisms to share this with young people and their parents.

- Continue to review the broad general education provision. Learning pathways through S3 and into the senior phase need to provide a smooth transition into courses leading to qualifications.

**Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school.** You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*<sup>1</sup>? 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 Kentigern's Academy

<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://www.education.gov.scot/reports/west-lothian/5509939>

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

Ann Floyd  
HM Inspector

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<sup>1</sup> How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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