

21 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Whitburn 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 headteacher and senior leadership team are providing strong leadership and a clear direction for school improvement. They have led a positive change to culture which is increasing the engagement of young people.
- The robust use of data and high quality tracking and monitoring by teachers and senior leaders. These approaches are supporting the clear identification of learners' needs and enabling them to be met effectively. Strong evidence-based strategic thinking is impacting positively on the curriculum offer experienced by young people. As a result, their achievement and attainment is improving.
- The whole-school approach to improving health and wellbeing. This use of a well-considered range of initiatives are supporting an increasing sense of self-belief and aspiration among young people and the community. The school's success has achieved national recognition through the First Minister's Reading Challenge Inspirational Award and the CoSLA Award for 'tackling inequalities and improving health'.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from West Lothian Council.

- Teachers should continue to develop their approaches to differentiation to ensure that all young people experience appropriate pace and challenge in their learning.
- Continue to ensure that the curriculum allows young people to progress to the highest levels of attainment and achievement.

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 Whitburn Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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 (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=5171>

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.

Gary Johnstone
HM Inspector