

29 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Armadale 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 positive collaborative relationships led by the headteacher, leading to a caring and inclusive ethos, which is supportive of staff and young people.
- Young people with a clear sense of pride in their school. They are polite and well-mannered and interact positively with their teachers. They are keen to learn and most work diligently on the tasks planned for them.
- The school offers of an increasing variety of courses and awards for young people to study. This is helping to meet the needs and aspirations of all learners. The targeted support for pupils when required, is also supporting better outcomes.
- The encouraging trends in aspects of achievement as well as positive attainment outcomes in some subject areas. The good practice in these areas should continue to be shared with all staff.

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

- School leaders should continue to increase and improve teacher, pupil and partner leadership opportunities. This will enable all in the community to have a sense of ownership in moving the school forward.
- There should be a continued focus on improving outcomes for all young people to make sure they achieve as much as possible during their time at school. Staff should continue to ensure that young people experience high quality learning and teaching in all classes. Teachers should build on existing good practice to ensure consistent experiences for all.
- All young people should be well supported to improve their sense of wellbeing as they progress through school. Staff should consider how best to involve the whole community in discussing and agreeing areas of wellbeing.
- Staff at all levels should continue to build their skills in the use of data in order to be able to track young people's attainment and also to provide the right support at the right time.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Armadale Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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/inspection-reports/west-lothian/5509238>

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