

25 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Wallace Hall 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.

- Staff know young people very well as learners and foster highly respectful and nurturing relationships with them. As a result, young people are highly motivated and engage successfully in their learning in a calm, purposeful environment.
- The well-respected headteacher, supported ably by senior leaders, creates the conditions to ensure staff at all levels feel able to adopt leadership roles. Staff are empowered to lead a wide range of important projects that support school improvements.
- Staff have highly-effective and rigorous approaches to monitoring and tracking young people's attainment and progress, wellbeing, achievements and attendance. They identify young people who require support early and put in place well-considered and highly-impactful strategies. As a result, young people are sustaining high levels of attainment across the school over time.
- Staff have a very well-developed understanding of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing as a responsibility of all. Their collaborative approaches to developing young people's knowledge and abilities, as well as gathering evidence of young people's progress in these areas across the school is highly-effective practice worth sharing.

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

- Teachers should continue to share and explore learning and teaching approaches with their colleagues. In particular, they should work together to ensure all young people experience increased challenge in their learning where they require it.
- Staff should continue with well-considered plans to develop a skills framework that helps young people identify and articulate their skills progression more clearly.

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 Wallace Hall Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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: [Wallace Hall Academy | Inspection Report | 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. Dumfries and Galloway Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Graham Parry
HM Inspector