
To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 14 March 2019

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Inspection of Paisley Grammar

1. Summary

- 1.1. Paisley Grammar was inspected by Education Scotland in November 2018 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 12 February 2019, is attached as an appendix to this report. The letter to parents is also available from the director of children's services or from the Education Scotland website: <https://education.gov.scot/>.
- 1.2. Education Scotland uses different models of inspection and at Paisley Grammar the duration of the inspection was three days ie the short model. Inspectors assessed the school, with a focus on two quality indicators which were: learning, teaching and assessment and raising attainment and achievement.
- 1.3. This was a positive inspection which evaluated the 2 quality indicators as 'Good'. The letter to parents identified three key strengths of the school.

These were:

- The headteacher and her senior team, in consultation with all staff, have made important progress in giving the school a clear sense of direction. Almost all staff demonstrate a willingness to engage in change and take forward priorities in a sustained and systematic way.
- The positive relationships between staff and young people, in almost all classes and in the Flexible Learning Resource, helping young people to develop confidence and skills.
- The safe and nurturing environment in the flexible learning resource, supporting young people to make progress and re-engage in learning.

- 1.4. The report also identified three areas for further improvement. These were:
- Continue to focus on improving learning and teaching so that all young people have consistently high quality learning experiences. Teachers need to ensure that there is an appropriate level of challenge for all learners.
 - Further develop approaches to the assessment and moderation of young people's work. This will enable them to be more aware of their strengths and areas for improvement. It will also enable teachers to target support appropriately to meet the needs of all young people.
 - Build on the school's important progress in establishing its values, to improve further young people's identification with the school and celebration of its diverse community.
- 1.5 Children's services has an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. The school and the service will prepare a short action plan (detailed within the School Improvement Plan) indicating how they will address the points for action in the report, and share this plan with parents. In addition, the school will be supported in its continued improvement by children's services.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the education and children's services policy board are asked to note the key strengths and the areas for improvement in the Education Scotland report on Paisley Grammar.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Education Scotland's letters to parents are published online by Education Scotland.
- 3.2. The report includes three recommendations for improvement. These recommendations will be addressed through an action plan, produced by the school and supported by children's services staff.
- 3.3. Progress on the school improvement plan will be monitored by children's services staff through the Quality Improvement Framework.
- 3.4. Children's services welcomes the process of audit undertaken by Education Scotland as supportive to continuous improvement in Renfrewshire education establishments. The inspection report will be used by the school and the service in the context of supporting and developing the quality of educational provision.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial**
None.

2. HR & Organisational Development

None.

3. Community/Council Planning –

- Our Renfrewshire is thriving: high standards of education provision ensure that children and young people are given the best start in life so that they promote and contribute to a more prosperous, fairer society.
- Our Renfrewshire is well – by providing an environment which encourages care, welfare and development, establishments play a crucial role in developing children and young people so that they become responsible citizens. The establishment's success in promoting wellbeing is evaluated as part of the inspection process.

4. Legal

None.

5. Property/Assets

None.

6. Information Technology

None.

7. Equality & Human Rights

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health & Safety

None.

9. Procurement

None.

10. Risk

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

12. Cosla Policy Position

Not applicable.

List of Background Papers

None.

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12 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Paisley Grammar 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.

- ✓ The headteacher and her senior team, in consultation with all staff, have made important progress in giving the school a clear sense of direction. Almost all staff demonstrate a willingness to engage in change and take forward priorities in a sustained and systematic way.
- ✓ The positive relationships between staff and young people, in almost all classes and in the Flexible Learning Resource, helping young people to develop confidence and skills.
- ✓ The safe and nurturing environment in the flexible learning resource, supporting young people to make progress and re-engage in learning.

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

- ✓ Continue to focus on improving learning and teaching so that all young people have consistently high quality learning experiences. Teachers need to ensure that there is an appropriate level of challenge for all learners.
- ✓ Further develop approaches to the assessment and moderation of young people's work. This will enable them to be more aware of their strengths and areas for improvement. It will also enable teachers to target support appropriately to meet the needs of all young people.
- ✓ Build on the school's important progress in establishing its values, to improve further young people's identification with the school and celebration of its diverse community.

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 Paisley Grammar School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8628734>

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. Renfrewshire 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