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**To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board**

**On: 24 May 2018**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Inspection of Renfrew High School, Renfrew**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Renfrew High School was inspected by Education Scotland in February 2018 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 15 May 2018 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. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the quality of education. Inspectors assessed the school, with a focus on four quality indicators which were: leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; raising attainment and achievement; and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion.
- 1.3. This was a very positive inspection and the letter to parents identified four key strengths of the school. These were:
  - The headteacher's strong leadership of school improvement, and his work with staff to embed a positive culture which benefits all young people.
  - The very effective use of information about young people's wellbeing which ensures that their needs are well met, and that they make good progress.
  - The very positive environment within the pupil support area for young people, especially those with additional needs. This, alongside the commitment of all staff to promoting nurturing and inclusive relationships across the school, leads to improved outcomes for all young people.
  - The improvement in the proportion of young people achieving a range of Higher passes in S5 and S6.

- 1.4. The report identified four areas for further improvement. These were:
- Streamline and simplify approaches to planning for improvement in the school. In particular, plans should be based on the school's evaluation of its own work. They should make clear what needs to improve and how. This will help bring about continuous improvement in young people's experiences and achievements.
  - Continue to review the curriculum to make sure it provides appropriate and progressive learning pathways for young people at all stages.
  - Continue to develop monitoring and tracking systems to ensure that young people attain as highly as possible.
  - Continue to work to ensure consistently high-quality learning and teaching across the school.
- 1.5. Children's services has an agreed set of procedures for responding to inspection reports. The school and the service will prepare an action 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 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 Renfrew High School.
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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 four 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 action plan will be monitored by children's services staff on a proportionate basis. A report will be prepared within two years of the original inspection, detailing the progress made in implementing the action plan. This report will be made available to parents.
- 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.

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**List of Background Papers**

None.

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15 May 2018

**Author:**      **Laura McAllister, Education Manager tel: 0141 618 7301**

15 May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Renfrew High 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's strong leadership of school improvement, and his work with staff to embed a positive culture which benefits all young people.
- The very effective use of information about young people's wellbeing which ensures that their needs are well met, and that they make good progress.
- The very positive environment within the pupil support area for young people, especially those with additional needs. This, alongside the commitment of all staff to promoting nurturing and inclusive relationships across the school, leads to improved outcomes for all young people.
- The improvement in the proportion of young people achieving a range of Higher passes in S5 and S6.

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

- Streamline and simplify approaches to planning for improvement in the school. In particular, plans should be based on the school's evaluation of its own work. They should make clear what needs to improve and how. This will help bring about continuous improvement in young people's experiences and achievements.
- Continue to review the curriculum to make sure it provides appropriate and progressive learning pathways for young people at all stages.
- Continue to develop monitoring and tracking systems to ensure that young people attain as highly as possible.
- Continue to work to ensure consistently high-quality learning and teaching across the school.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Renfrew High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<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>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition)</a> , <a href="#">Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a> .	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8630534>.

### 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