

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 24 May 2018

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Inspection of St Andrew's Academy, Paisley

1. Summary

- 1.1 St Andrew's Academy was inspected by Education Scotland in November 2017 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 24 April 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 five key strengths of the school. These were:
- The wellbeing of young people sits at the heart of the school underpinned by strong Catholic values. The caring ethos and positive relationships across the school are resulting in young people who are motivated and engaged and feel well supported to learn and achieve.
 - The head teacher's strong leadership has set high expectations for what all young people can achieve. All staff demonstrate a strong

commitment to this ethos. They work well together and with partners to improve outcomes for all young people.

- The high quality support provided by the Don Bosco wellbeing base, the support for learning department, the pastoral team and the home link service is promoting inclusion and improving young people's engagement with their learning. This is leading to improvements in attainment and achievement for young people.
- The school has a relentless focus on improving life chances for young people beyond school through attaining and achieving highly. This has resulted in improvements in attainment for young people from S4 to S6. The school has raised attainment in literacy and numeracy for young people facing additional challenges.
- The increasing range of learning pathways in S4 to S6, planned and delivered with partners, is meeting the different needs and aspirations of young people well. This is improving their future prospects. Almost all go on to a positive destination such as college, higher education or employment on leaving school.

1.4 The report identified three areas for further improvement:

- Continue to improve learning and teaching to ensure all young people experience consistently high quality learning that meets their needs.
- Continue to develop approaches to tracking and monitoring young people's progress from S1 to S3 to ensure appropriate pace and challenge and support young people into suitable learning pathways.
- Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for all young people who require support plans.

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.

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 St Andrew's Academy.

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 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.

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: None**
6. **Information Technology: None**
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) 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

(a) None

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24 April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Andrew's 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 wellbeing of young people sits at the heart of the school underpinned by strong Catholic values. The caring ethos and positive relationships across the school are resulting in young people who are motivated and engaged and feel well supported to learn and achieve.
- The headteacher's strong leadership has set high expectations for what all young people can achieve. All staff demonstrate a strong commitment to this ethos. They work well together and with partners to improve outcomes for all young people.
- The high quality support provided by the Don Bosco wellbeing base, the support for learning department, the pastoral team and the home link service is promoting inclusion and improving young people's engagement with their learning. This is leading to improvements in attainment and achievement for young people.
- The school has a relentless focus on improving life chances for young people beyond school through attaining and achieving highly. This has resulted in improvements in attainment for young people from S4 to S6. The school has raised attainment in literacy and numeracy for young people facing additional challenges.
- The increasing range of learning pathways in S4 to S6, planned and delivered with partners, is meeting the different needs and aspirations of young people well. This is improving their future prospects. Almost all go on to a positive destination such as college, higher education or employment on leaving school.

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

- Continue to improve learning and teaching to ensure all young people experience consistently high quality learning that meets their needs.

- Continue to develop approaches to tracking and monitoring young people's progress from S1 to S3 to ensure appropriate pace and challenge and support young people into suitable learning pathways.
- Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for all young people who require support plans.

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 St Andrew's Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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 will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/renfrewshire/8629439>

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.

Mary Byrne
HM Inspector