

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

**On: 29 October 2020**

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

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**Heading: Inspection of Gryffe High School, Houston**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Gryffe High School was inspected by Education Scotland in February 2020 as part of a national sample of education. The letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 11 August 2020, 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 use different models of inspection. At Gryffe High School the short inspection model was applied, whereby inspection activity took place over 3 days. 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 an extremely positive inspection which evaluated learning, teaching and assessment as 'very good' and raising attainment and achievement as 'excellent'. The letter to parents identified four key strengths of the school. These were:
- The strong and highly effective leadership provided by the headteacher, supported by his senior leadership team, has ensured that staff have the highest expectations for what all young people can achieve.
  - Highly skilled analysis of progress and attainment data of all young people results in early and highly effective interventions by staff at all levels. These contribute significantly to outstanding levels of attainment and achievement.

- Aspects of outstanding practice in primary to secondary transition that build very effectively on what young people already know.
- Highly motivated, articulate and ambitious young people who have high aspirations. They make important and significant contributions to the school and local community, supported and driven by an effective pupil management group.

1.4 The letter to parents identified the following areas for further improvement:

- Build on existing practice to improving the reliability of assessment evidence from S1 to S3. This should support teachers to provide tasks and activities set at the right level for young people.

1.5 Children's Services have 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 point for action in the report and will 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 area for improvement in the Education Scotland report on Gryffe 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 one recommendation for improvement. This will be addressed through the ongoing work of the school and the school's improvement planning procedures, which include the creation of the annual school improvement plan by the school, supported by Children's Services staff.

3.3 Progress on the school improvement plan will be monitored by Children's Services staff on a proportionate basis.

3.4 Children's Services welcomes the process of audit undertaken by Education Scotland as supportive to continuous improvement in Renfrewshire's 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**: 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
13. **Climate Risk**: None

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## List of Background Papers

None

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*Children's Services*

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10 September 2020

**Author: Julie Colquhoun, Education Manager Tel: 0141 618 6009**

11 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Gryffe 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 strong and highly effective leadership provided by the headteacher, supported by his senior leadership team, has ensured that staff have the highest expectations for what all young people can achieve.
- Highly skilled analysis of progress and attainment data of all young people results in early and highly effective interventions by staff at all levels. These contribute significantly to outstanding levels of attainment and achievement.
- Aspects of outstanding practice in primary to secondary transition that build very effectively on what young people already know.
- Highly motivated, articulate and ambitious young people who have high aspirations. They make important and significant contributions to the school and local community, supported and driven by an effective pupil management group.

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

- Build on existing practice to improving the reliability of assessment evidence from S1 to S3. This should support teachers to provide tasks and activities set at the right level for young people.

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 Gryffe High School

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

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:  
<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=2844>.

### 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.

Guch Dhillon  
 HM Inspector