

21 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Alford 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 strong, caring leadership of the headteacher. This is supporting the whole school community to work together to improve young people's experiences.
- The increasing range of pathways young people can follow in S4-6. These are helping young people to achieve positive destinations, including employment, further and higher education.
- Strong partnership working with local and national organisations. Young people are developing valuable employability skills as a result.

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

- Improve the quality of learning and teaching so that that it is consistently high across the school. This will support raising attainment and ensuring young people make the best possible progress.
- Continue with plans to strengthen approaches to relationship building, so that all young people can experience a positive and calm environment, which maximises their learning.
- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.

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 Alford Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. Aberdeenshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Jacqueline Gallagher
HM Inspector