

13 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Joseph's College. 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 calm ethos across the school sets a positive tone as a purposeful learning environment. Relationships between staff and young people are positive and productive.
- Young people experience learning with important, strong features which encourage most to participate well in lessons.
- There are features of strong attainment from S4 to S6 at St Joseph's College.

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

- Staff at all levels need to strengthen their contributions to leadership to ensure a better pace of improvement. All stakeholders should be involved in identifying and supporting improvement priorities and evaluating their impact.
- Continue to raise the attainment of targeted groups of young people at all stages.
- Staff should collaborate to share effective approaches to monitoring young people's attainment, wider achievements and skills development.
- Young people's wellbeing should be given clearer priority. All teachers need to be involved in ensuring young people's specific needs are supported well. Staff should work with young people and parents to agree targets for supporting learning needs. These should be recorded and reviewed regularly.

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 Joseph's College

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
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?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Dumfries and Galloway Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Dumfries and Galloway Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

JohnPaul Cassidy
HM Inspector