

14 March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ochil Tower School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and young people and worked closely with the joint coordinators and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Staff across the school have created a nurturing environment based on shared values in which all children and young people are treated with respect. Staff recognise and build on the individual strengths of each pupil and use their interests well to help them engage in their learning.
- Staff are reflective in all aspects of their practice. They are responsive to the needs of learners and continually adapt their approaches to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people.
- Staff and pupils make very good use of the learning environment, including outdoor spaces and the local community. This results in stimulating learning experiences which are enjoyable and relevant.
- The leadership of staff and organisational structure which results in collaborative approaches to improving the work of the school.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the joint coordinators and a representative from The Board of Governors:

- The school should continue with its work to develop and further improve the curriculum to ensure they are preparing young people for life after they leave the school. In taking this forward, staff should consider how they can better include partners in developing their curriculum to maximise opportunities for learning.
- The school has made a very good start in reviewing the progress that learners are making. Staff should continue with this work and develop ways in which they can best track the progress of children and young people to help them build on their learning.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*¹? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Ochil Tower School

Leadership of Change	Very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Very good
Raising attainment and achievement	Very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very good

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/reports/perth-and-kinross/5381142>

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. The Board of Governors will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Monica McGeever
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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The Complaints Manager

Education Scotland

Denholm House
Almondvale Business Park
Almondvale Way
Livingston EH54 6GA

T +44 (0)131 244 4330
E enquiries@educationscotland.gov.uk

www.educationscotland.gov.uk

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