

4 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dumbarton 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.

- Senior leaders and staff have worked together very well to create a calm and positive environment for learning across the school. This is underpinned well by the school values.
- Young people benefit from a range of helpful integrated supports across the school that support them to attain and achieve.
- Staff work well with partners to support young people as they progress through the school. As a result, almost all young people leave school to a positive destination.

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

- Senior leaders should continue to work with all staff to ensure all young people experience consistently high-quality learning across the school. This includes improving how teachers use assessment information and feedback from young people to plan learning.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to work together to raise attainment across the school from S1 to S6, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

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 Dumbarton Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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: [Dumbarton Academy | Inspection Report | 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. West Dunbartonshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Stuart Cathro
HM Inspector