

24 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Rutherglen High School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the acting peer headteacher and staff.

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

- Across the school, most young people are confident, enthusiastic, and keen to express their views. They share their work and achievements proudly.
- Young people at the senior phase are achieving well through volunteering, participating in work placements and visiting local skills projects. They are gaining confidence and developing resilience.
- Staff work appropriately to help prepare young people for life after school. Almost all young people move on successfully to adult learning, college or further training when they leave school.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the acting peer headteacher and a representative from South Lanarkshire Council.

- Senior leaders and staff need to create a strong, welcoming school culture based on positive relationships between themselves, young people, parents and partners. Senior leaders should improve their approaches to communicating with the school community, ensuring all communication is regular, clear and effective.
- Staff need to provide all young people with appropriately challenging and purposeful learning activities throughout the school day. They should ensure that learning activities take account of the strengths and needs of all learners.
- Senior leaders and staff need to improve approaches to promoting positive relationships and behaviour across the school. In doing so, they should adopt consistent approaches to support young people displaying distressed behaviour.
- The school should continue to raise young people's attainment across the broad general education and senior phase.
- Senior leaders need to develop more robust processes to monitor school performance, with a clear focus on improving young people's attainment, achievement and wellbeing.

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 Rutherglen High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
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:

[Rutherglen High School | Inspection Report | 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 South Lanarkshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with South Lanarkshire 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.

Steven McPherson
HM Inspector