
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date: 12 March 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No: EDUCOM/18/19/SP
Contact Officer:	Stephen Parsons	Contact No: 01475 712761
Subject:	Education Scotland Report on Port Glasgow High School	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Education & Communities Committee of the recent Education Scotland inspection of Port Glasgow High School. The inspection focused on progress being made within Port Glasgow High School on improving learning and teaching and raising attainment.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Port Glasgow High School was inspected in November 2018, under the Education Scotland's model of 5 day inspections. The inspection focused on progress being made within the school to improve learning and teaching, raising attainment and closing the poverty-related attainment gap.
- 2.2 The report published on February 2019 outlines the many positive practices and interventions that are having a significant impact on improving outcomes for young people within the school.
- 2.3 Education Scotland notes that the evidence and evaluation to date indicate that Port Glasgow High School is making good progress in improving learning, raising attainment and closing the poverty-related attainment gap.
- 2.4 The report also noted the Head Teacher's strong drive for change and improvement that has clearly directed the professional focus of staff.
- 2.5 There is a developing culture of increased expectations and empowerment of young people and staff. This is enabling Principal teachers and staff to take on leadership responsibilities which are contributing significantly to school improvement.
- 2.6 The school has received a very positive report from Education Scotland. They are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so no more visits in connection with this inspection will be made.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education & Communities Committee notes the Education Scotland report on Port Glasgow High School.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of Education Scotland's inspection framework, Port Glasgow High School was inspected during the week commencing 23 November 2018. Education Scotland staff and associate assessors from education authorities, evaluated the education provision provided within the school.
- 4.2 The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages, identified key strengths and areas for improvement.

The framework for this inspection included reviewing quality indicators which enabled Education Scotland to evaluate aspects of:

- 1.3 Leadership of change
- 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment
- 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing and equality
- 3.2 Raising Attainment and achievement

In addition, further evidence was gathered to assist the school in reviewing its arrangements for the quality indicator 2.6 Transitions.

- 4.3 Education Scotland assessed and reported on the views of parents, pupils and staff, the quality of learning and teaching, how well the school was raising achievement for all pupils, the school's processes for self-evaluation and innovation and the school's capacity for improvement.
- 4.4 The report was published on 5 February 2019. It has been issued to staff, parents, local elected members and the Convener and the Vice-Convener of the Education & Communities Committee.

5.0 CURRENT PROVISION

- 5.1 Port Glasgow High School has received a positive report from Education Scotland which outlines the significant progress made in the key areas.
- 5.2 The report noted that the Head Teacher has been a key influencer of change and had provided highly strategic direction for the school community. The school had developed a five year strategic plan to meet the needs of the school in which almost all staff demonstrate a very good understanding of the local context.
- 5.3 It also reported that positive relationships throughout the school community are founded on respect so that almost all young people feel valued. Strong friendly relationships are evident in a nurturing environment.
- 5.4 There is a strong sense of community evident in the school, Staff and partners are sensitive and responsive to the wellbeing of individual children. Staff recognise their responsibility with regard to universal support by establishing and providing learning experiences that support young people's wellbeing.
- 5.5 The senior Leaders have recently put in place a range of strategies to support improvement in attainment and achievement. This is starting to result in a wide range of positive outcomes for young people.
- 5.6 In assessing the quality indicators, Education Scotland found the four key indicators to be the following:
 - Leadership of Change – very good
 - Learning, teaching and assessment - good

- Raising attainment and achievement - good
- Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion – good

5.7 The report lists a number of points which are particular strengths of the school:

- The Head Teacher's leadership and management of the pace of change. Along with the senior leadership team, he is inspiring staff to lead new initiatives.
- The renewed values which underpin the friendly and nurturing ethos in the school are helping young people to develop confidence and leadership skills.
- Recent improvements in a wide range of positive outcomes for young people such as improved Senior Phase attainment and increased positive destinations.
- The collaborative working of staff in a range of teams and across the cluster.

5.8 The following areas for improvement were identified:

- Continue to develop more consistent approaches to monitoring the progress of young people's attainment, achievement and wellbeing.
- Continue to develop the curriculum to ensure all learners experience their full entitlement to a broad general education.
- Continue to build on approaches to planning and delivering high quality learning teaching, ensuring all learners experience more consistency across all departments.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
n/a					

6.2 Human Resources:

N/A.

6.3 Legal:

N/A.

6.4 Equalities:

N/A.

6.5 Repopulation:

N/A.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 N/A.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/A.

5 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Port Glasgow High School. 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 headteacher's leadership and management of the pace of change. Along with his senior leadership team, he is inspiring staff to lead new initiatives. This is bringing about improvement and is empowering staff to become more creative in a range of new approaches. The positive relationships and fresh vision that have been fostered across the school community are encouraging young people to challenge themselves to achieve more.
- The renewed values which underpin the friendly and nurturing ethos in the school are helping young people to develop their confidence and leadership skills. Young people are articulate, aspirational and respond very positively to the raised expectations of them in all aspects of the school's work.
- Recent important improvements in a wide range of positive outcomes for young people. For example there have been improvements in senior phase attainment and the number of young people supported to move on to positive destinations from school. This is resulting in an inclusive school environment where learners are being developed more fully for life.
- The collaborative working of staff in a range of teams across the school and cluster. This is creating a caring school community where staff embrace challenge and are motivated to drive improved learning experiences for young people across the school.

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

- Continue to develop more consistent approaches to monitoring the progress of young people's attainment, achievement and wellbeing. This should include monitoring of wider engagement activities and wider skills that young people are developing.
- Continue to develop the curriculum to ensure all learners experience their full entitlement to a broad general education. This will provide a wider range of pathways for progression into the senior phase, as well as opportunities for learners to engage in relevant experiences which build on their awareness of the world of life and work.
- Continue to build on approaches to planning and delivering high quality learning and teaching, ensuring all learners experience more consistency across all departments.

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 Port Glasgow High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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:
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/inverclyde/8645531>

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

JohnPaul Cassidy
 HM Inspector