

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILEDUCATION COMMITTEE13 June 2019Report by Director of EducationEDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT ON
ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To inform elected members of the outstanding report by Education Scotland on St Ninian's High School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Elected members are asked to:
- a) note and comment on the contents of the Education Scotland report on St Ninian's High School; and
 - b) commend the school's achievements by awarding it accreditation from May 2019 until May 2022.

BACKGROUND

3. St Ninian's High School was inspected by a team from Education Scotland in January 2019. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school and identified particular strengths and areas for improvement using the Education Scotland six-point scale and the self-evaluation framework *How Good is our School?* (4th edition).

4. Education Scotland evaluate four quality indicators and provide a short report which details the strengths and areas for improvement. The report was published in June 2019 and is attached as Appendix 1. It has been issued to staff, parents, local elected members and the Convener for Education and Equalities.

REPORT

5. In assessing the indicators of quality in the secondary school Education Scotland found two aspects of the work to be very good, i.e. learning, teaching and assessment and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. Inspectors evaluated the other two quality indicator as excellent i.e. leadership of change and raising attainment and achievement. The evaluations are included in Appendix 2.

6. The particular strengths highlighted by the inspection team included:

- The climate of aspirations in the school, underpinned by gospel values, the Catholic faith, mutual respect and nurturing relationships.

- The motivation and determination of the young people to flourish in a wide range of situations and their great respect for learning.
- Highly effective leadership of all staff; their team work and commitment to undertaking a range of professional learning.
- The role of the senior leadership team in driving change that enables sustained and outstanding outcomes for young people in attainment and achievement over time.
- The impact of a wide range of partners who are integral to developing the curriculum.

7. This is outstanding report on an East Renfrewshire school and the judgements made by Education Scotland are very close to the department's evaluation of the quality of provision. St Ninian's is the first secondary school in Scotland to achieve an evaluation of excellent for raising attainment and achievement.

8. The department is especially pleased that the leadership of the head teacher was noted in the letter to parents/carers as one of the key strengths, *'The headteacher's strategic planning of the school is excellent. His leadership has resulted in a school with aspects of the very best practice.'*

9. The inspection team agreed one area of improvement with the school and Education Department:

- Continue improving the school as identified in the school's improvement plan. This should include developing further the consistency of approach in high-quality learning, teaching and assessment.

10. Given that the school has been judged to be excellent in two indicators assessed by Education Scotland there is no need for an additional action plan to address the area for improvement as noted above. The school will continue to use the results of its own self-evaluation to identify priorities for improvement which will be published in its annual standards and quality report and school plan.

11. The department will continue to work in partnership with the head teacher and staff to share the sector leading practices with other schools within East Renfrewshire and across Scotland.

12. Education Scotland will make no further reports in connection with the inspection of St Ninian's High School and the Education Department recommends that the school be accredited for its achievements. This will mean that the authority will not carry out any formal quality assurance activities in St Ninian's for a period of 3 years from the date of publication of the report, i.e. until June 2022.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

13. There are no financial or efficiency implications related to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. Elected members are asked to:

- a) note and comment on the contents of the Education Scotland report on St Ninian's High School; and

- b) commend the school's achievements by awarding it accreditation from May 2019 until May 2022.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
13 June 2019

Convener Contact Details

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Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Appendix

1. Education Scotland report on St Ninian's High School

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4 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Ninian's 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 strategic planning of the school is excellent. His leadership has resulted in a school with aspects of the very best practice. Together with his senior leadership team, the headteacher has driven well-paced change to enable sustained and outstanding outcomes for young people over time.
- Staff as a team are very effective leaders of continuous improvement. They are committed to undertaking a range of professional learning, much of which is based on them learning with, and from, each other. Senior leaders are adept at recognising how staff's skills can contribute effectively to the leadership of the school.
- Young people are very successful in securing outstanding outcomes in attainment and achievement. They show a great respect for learning, with a high level of motivation and determination to flourish in a wide range of situations.
- There is a climate of aspiration in the school, which promotes that there is no limit to what can be achieved for the young people of St Ninian's High School. This is underpinned by gospel values, the Catholic faith, mutual respect and nurturing relationships. Young people feel they have extensive opportunities to achieve their potential, and develop their wellbeing.
- The headteacher, senior and middle leaders, and staff have a very effective focus on using information on young people's progress to develop a wide range of learning pathways. They have used the national programme, Developing the Young Workforce in an excellent way to prepare young people for employment. Partners such as parents, the church, employers, Skills Development Scotland, former pupils, colleges, universities and associated primary schools are integral to developing the curriculum.

The following area for improvement was identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from East Renfrewshire Council.

- Continue improving the school as identified in the school's improvement plan. This should include developing further the consistency of approach in high-quality learning, teaching and assessment.

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 Ninian's High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	excellent
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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/east-renfrewshire/8602433>

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

Joan C. Esson
 HM Inspector