

13 February 2017

Children Young People and Lifelong Learning

Education Services

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Dear Parent/Carer

KIRKCUDBRIGHT ACADEMY PROGRESS REPORT FEBRUARY 2017

Kirkcudbright Academy was inspected by Education Scotland in December 2015. The focus of this inspection was learning, teaching and assessment and attainment.

As part of the reporting arrangements of Dumfries and Galloway Education Services, I am writing to inform you of the progress made by the school since the publication of the Education Scotland report in February 2016.

The report highlighted three main areas for development:

1. Ensure all staff, young people and their parents have a shared vision for the future direction of the school. This will support the school to build on its strengths and continue to improve.
2. Continue to improve the consistency of learning, teaching and assessment to ensure all young people attain as highly as possible.
3. Continue to develop young people's understanding of the skills and qualities they are developing across their learning.

This letter sets gives details of the actions taken and the progress made in relation to these three areas for development.

Ensure all staff, young people and their parents have a shared vision for the future direction of the school. This will support the school to build on its strengths and continue to improve.

The school is a key resource within the community and is currently developing a shared strategic vision for parents and the wider community which will include further developing partnerships and increasing opportunities to support the development, learning and achievement of the young people.

The school has made much progress in developing a vision for the school. The development of 'HEART' by our staff and young people and its subsequent introduction to the life and work of the school, will lead to a more explicit, energised and shared vision for the school. The school community will continue to embed the school vision, values and aims in all aspects of school life and work and the school community will review the school vision, values and aims as appropriate.

Continue to improve the consistency of learning, teaching and assessment to ensure all young people attain as highly as possible.

Much work has been done by staff in relation to learning and teaching and good progress has been made in ensuring more consistency with regards to learners' experiences across the school. During classroom visits there was evidence of opportunities for the young people to lead the learning and the school will continue to increase these opportunities.

The school will continue to consider planning of the learning experience and assessments to ensure there is every opportunity to continually raise attainment and meet the young people's needs in all curricular areas. Kirkcudbright Academy will further develop their work with their cluster primary schools in relation to learning and teaching to align the first year of secondary school to the earlier stages of the Broad General Education.

There is scope within the school, to further refine learning and teaching approaches and to ensure assessment fully informs what steps young people and the families need to take in order to maximise achievement. This will continue to inform the tracking system which is currently being developed and implemented.

Continue to develop young people's understanding of the skills and qualities they are developing across their learning.

The school accepts that this is an area which has not been prioritised for development to date. Appropriate skills are being taught in specific subjects but as yet there is relatively little coordination of skills development across the curriculum. Academic performance has been the focus for the school however there is an appreciation that a better grasp of skills can enhance the academic attainment further.

As part of the educational provision offered at Kirkcudbright Academy, young people have opportunities to develop a wide range of skills through the wide range of learning opportunities available to them both within and outside school. The school continues to consider more effective ways of bringing skills, those developed in and outside of school, together to give young people a more rounded and valuable picture of themselves and their future. Young people are able to talk well about their learning in class and are developing their ability to make the links across their learning.

Kirkcudbright Academy demonstrates the capacity for further and ongoing school improvement. The commitment of the Senior Leadership Team and school staff to the learning and development of the young people is to be commended as is the engagement of the young people and parents in the life and work of the school.

I wish to congratulate all within the school community on the progress made over the last year.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Brydson
Head of Education