

28 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited The Royal 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 outstanding leadership of the headteacher. Together with the senior leadership team, she has successfully established a school community where young people and staff feel valued and motivated to contribute. As a result, they are making continuous and successful improvements confidently across the school.
- The exceptional contribution of young people to bringing about positive changes to the school. They demonstrate strong leadership in many aspects of school life. This supports young people to be successful, to achieve highly and have a strong sense of empowerment and ownership of their school.
- The respectful climate for learning is highly inclusive and staff support young people very well to achieve their best. Teachers and young people use digital technology very creatively. This significantly enhances learning experiences and helps to meet the needs of all young people.
- Young people have a very strong understanding of diversity and equality. 'We all belong here' is lived and promoted very successfully in every aspect of school life. Young people value and celebrate difference. Equity sits at the heart of the school experience. Young people demonstrate respect, confidence and resilience and they thrive and flourish in Royal High School.
- The very high standard of attainment for all young people. By S6, attainment is very strong. From S1, young people are being very well prepared for future life and work. Attainment for specific groups of learners is also very high and this includes those living in challenging circumstances.

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

- Continue to raise expectations and challenge in learning for S1 to S3 young people.
- Continue to support young people's understanding of the skills they achieve across all areas of the curriculum.

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 The Royal High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	excellent
Raising attainment and achievement	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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. The City of Edinburgh Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Ann Floyd
HM Inspector