

People Directorate

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Dear Parent/Carer

Education Scotland Thematic Review – Promoting Positive Behaviour

As you may know, two Education Scotland inspectors visited the school on Thursday 15 September 2022 as part of a national review of how schools support and promote positive behaviour. Many thanks to those of you who completed the pre-visit questionnaire. All pupils were also asked to complete a questionnaire in advance of the visit.

On the day of the visit, inspectors talked to staff and pupils and reviewed the activities we do in school to promote our school values, positive relationships and positive behaviour. They also looked at our anti-bullying policy and how we record and monitor incidents of bullying.

At the end of the day, inspectors shared their findings with the senior leadership team. I have summarised the main points below.

Strengths

- Overall, they were very positive about the school's proactive approaches to promoting a school culture which will not tolerate bullying behaviours.
- They praised how we link our vision and values together to children's rights, and use them to promote a positive, inclusive culture underpinned by respect and an appreciation of diversity.
- They liked our use of assemblies, Daily Personal Support time and our themes of the month to constantly reinforce our values and expectations.
- They also noted how well our senior pupils model our values, helping in classes and as buddies and leading house events.
- Younger pupils, especially those in leadership roles such as our Wellbeing Ambassadors and our Pupil Council, were also highlighted as making a positive contribution to the ethos of the school.
- These approaches are supporting a strong sense of community, positive relationships and care/compassion between young people and each other, and young people and staff.

The questionnaires from **pupils** were very positive with most feeling safe in school, having someone they trust that they can speak to and 89% said that bullying is not accepted in the school. They were very positive about the staff with most saying they were responsive and caring.

Parents who completed questionnaires were also very positive about the school ethos, relationships and the respectful way we treat one another. They felt we were responsive to the needs of pupils and most were confident that they could report bullying and that it is not accepted in the school.

Aspects for Development

- Inspectors stated that our anti-bullying policy is clear and helpful and the school uses a range of very effective supports for both those experiencing bullying behaviour and those displaying bullying behaviour. However, parents and pupils are not always aware of the supports we provide or the approaches we use to deal with bullying behaviour. They suggested that young people and parents would benefit from knowing more about these particularly when they have raised an issue with the school.
- Inspectors suggested sharing more information with pupils and parents about the restorative approaches we use and the importance of these approaches in promoting positive behaviour and supporting young people to take responsibility for their actions.
- This will support a shared understanding across our school community about how we resolve incidents of bullying and how we support our young people.

We have updated our policy to include a detailed account of the procedures we take when an incident of bullying is reported. You can read this on our website [here](#) (page 10 and 11 of the policy). In future, we will share this with any parent who reports concerns about bullying so that they know what to expect at each step.

What happens next?

The information from this visit will contribute to the national review which will be published later this year. It does not report on individual schools but gives an overview of practice across Scotland. However, inspectors were very impressed with the positive ethos of the school and our proactive approaches to promoting a school culture which will not tolerate bullying behaviours. They have asked us if this can be used as an example of good practice in the report. We are delighted that this has been recognised and will continue to work hard to make our school a positive, respectful and caring community.

Best wishes



Mary Byrne
Head Teacher