



Education
Scotland
Foghlam Alba



**New Struan School
Alloa
Clackmannanshire
19 April 2016**

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1. Background

In October 2014, HM Inspectors published a report on your child's school. We subsequently returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve its work, and published another report in June 2015. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During this visit, the Care Inspectorate also carried out an inspection of the school's care provision. During our visit, we talked to young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff how the school has continued to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection and at other aspects of the school's work, as proposed by the headteacher. As a result, we were able to find out how well young people are now learning and achieving and how the school is continuing to support them to do their best. This report sets out what we found.

2. How well do young people learn and achieve?

Across the school, young people have positive, trusting relationships with staff and appear happy in school. The majority of young people are now more actively involved in their learning and have more opportunities to learn outdoors and in the community, developing and practising skills for life beyond school. When engaged in suitable, stimulating activities matched to their interests and abilities, young people are motivated, active participants and do more for themselves. There is a greater emphasis on young people understanding the purposes of lessons and how they can improve. We have asked the school to continue to develop this practice more consistently in all classes.

3. How well does the school support young people to develop and learn?

The school is making good progress with its plans to improve the curriculum. The school day is longer and staff are planning well for individuals and groups in most areas. There is still a need to further extend the school day and for staff to make better use of the time available for learning. For example, staff should review the content and purpose of the daily “good morning” activity to make sure that it is relevant for young people and appropriate to their age. A few young people are attending college and gaining skills and confidence through planned work experience. There is scope to extend this to more young people, to support them to move on successfully from school. In developing the curriculum, the school has established links with partners in the community. This is resulting in improved learning opportunities for young people. The ‘traffic lights’ behaviour support plans reflect a very good understanding of young people’s anxieties and behaviour and provide practical strategies for staff to support them in times of stress. It is important to provide time for staff in care and education to work together to plan joint learning targets and support strategies to ensure that expectations are shared effectively.

4. How well does the school improve the quality of its work?

The school's capacity for improvement has strengthened considerably since the original inspection. The new Parent Council and recently appointed Parent Ambassador are working closely with staff to organise whole school events and improve parental involvement. The senior leadership team has provided clear guidance and focused support to staff. They observe and monitor the quality of learning and teaching and provide robust feedback to staff which is leading to better learning experiences and improved outcomes for young people. However, not all staff have an accurate view of the quality of learning and teaching across the school. The senior leadership team need to continue to work with staff to build a shared understanding of high quality learning and teaching that will meet the needs of all young people.

5. What happens next?

Since the original inspection the school has made some important improvements. However, some further work remains to be done to improve aspects of learning and teaching. Our Independent Schools Link Inspector will continue to work with the school to build capacity for improvement and will maintain contact to monitor progress. We will make no further visits in connection with the original inspection.

Olwynne Clark
Managing Inspector

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