

23 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Beeslack Community 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 has shown strong leadership in developing a school culture and ethos with a particular focus on wellbeing and working together. All school staff feel that they play a key role in improvements. As a result, the school is well-placed to improve further.
- The trusting, caring relationships between staff and young people are leading to a calm and respectful learning environment. Young people are proud of their school and eager to learn.
- Staff ensure that young people are supported to recognise their own wellbeing needs. Young people are well supported by staff and partners through creative and well-considered wellbeing strategies to help them make progress.

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

- Senior and middle leaders should continue to develop approaches to strategic planning for continuous improvement. This should include refining systematic approaches across the school for quality assurance, self-evaluation and tracking and monitoring.
- Teachers should continue to explore approaches to learning, teaching and assessment to improve their shared understanding of high-quality learning experiences. This should provide all young people with appropriate support and challenge in their learning.
- Senior leaders should continue to review and improve the curriculum. This includes young people's experiences from S1-S3. This is to ensure that all young people benefit from well-planned experiences leading to raised attainment.
- Staff should raise attainment for all young people in the Annex. This should include ensuring young people are able to access National Qualifications at the highest possible level.

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 Beeslack Community High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and Review](#) | [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. Midlothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Donald Paterson
HM Inspector