

13 June 2023

Tel: 01506 284755
<https://inclusionandsupport.westlothian.org.uk>

Dear Parent,

I wanted to update you on the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) visit we had back in February. A report was prepared and shared with local councillors last week at the Education Quality Assurance Committee. The committee was streamed live on YouTube with a link available to view <https://www.youtube.com/live/QRJ3Wrlo0Fs?feature=share> and the report is on the West Lothian COINS system:

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewPack.asp?c=e%97%9Db%95q%82%8E%7B%90%97%A5%C1%A2%AF%8B%A7%90o%83%5Fi%89>

The visit mirrored that of an Education Scotland short inspection model and used the *How Good is Our School 4* framework to rate the school against quality indicators. The VSE focused on the quality of our learning, teaching and assessment, our work in supporting learners to attain and achieve and also on the quality of our personalised support. Each quality indicator is rated on a 6 point scale as follows:

- Excellent means outstanding - sector-leading
- very good means major strengths
- good means important strengths with some areas for improvement
- satisfactory means strengths just outweigh weaknesses
- weak means important weaknesses
- unsatisfactory means major weaknesses

The ratings from our VSE were as follows:

2.4 Personalised Support – Very Good

2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment – Satisfactory

3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement – Satisfactory

As a school, we are really proud of the quality of the support we provide for our young people within a calm and supportive environment and were really pleased our visitors saw this first hand too. We are already working on the areas we know as a school community we need to further develop. The Skills Centre is a school in transition: transition in leadership (I have recently returned to the Head Teacher post), transition of young people (in terms of changing needs across year groups) and transition of curriculum (evolving to match changing needs and requirements of young people).

We are not satisfied with the current ratings and already have an action plan in place to improve both 2.3 and 3.2 and I believe we have already moved up from satisfactory. We are keen to work closely with you on this important work and if you would be interested in being part of a parent group working together with us, please drop me an email at andrew.millar@westlothian.org.uk.

The comments at the end of the YouTube clip from Councillor McGuire highlight what our school is all about when he made reference to the “compassion, kindness and care” we offer to all our young people. We are in a good place to improve and I look forward to working with you and your child over the next session.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Millar
Head Teacher