

23 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Pathways to Success. 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 deputy headteacher and staff have created a welcoming and nurturing environment for young people at Pathways to Success. The deputy headteacher leads staff in establishing a positive atmosphere where young people feel safe, respected and included.
- The service ensures clear lines of communication between staff, young people and their families. This enables families to be more involved in their child's education and helps staff to address successfully any issues that young people are experiencing.
- Staff are skilled at identifying and meeting young people's needs and helping them to improve their social skills. They support young people to have a more positive approach to education, which is improving their attendance and increasing their achievements.

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

- Senior leaders and staff should work with partners to find ways to increase the hours which young people can spend in the service across the week. This should support staff to help young people raise their attainment.
- Staff should increase their monitoring of young people's progress and attainment in all aspects of their learning programmes across their week. This will help staff support young people to build on their prior learning.
- Staff within the service should consider the balance of the curriculum in the senior phase to make sure that there is sufficient time given to National Qualifications as well as wider achievement awards.

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 Pathways to Success

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:

[Pathways to Success | Inspection Report | 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.

Tracie McEwan
HM Inspector