

8 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Closeburn House. 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.

- Senior leaders and staff have built trusting relationships with young people. This is helping young people feel safe, valued and more willing to engage with learning. Most young people attend regularly, take part in activities and show improving attitudes towards school and learning.
- Senior leaders and teachers are working collaboratively to design planning frameworks. They have introduced more consistent approaches to planned learning across the school. This is helping teachers to plan learning for young people which takes better account of their interests and builds on what they already know.
- Senior leaders and staff have introduced an increasing number of ways for young people to develop their skills through participation in wider achievement opportunities. This is supporting young people to develop their confidence, engage with the local community and develop important skills for learning, life and work.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The Board of Directors.

- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to improve how they check on the progress of all young people. They need to use assessment information more consistently to understand more fully the progress young people are making. This will help them more quickly identify when young people need extra help or increased levels of challenge with their learning.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to identify creative ways to support young people on part-time timetables to attend school on a full-time basis.
- Young people in the Broad General Education do not experience the correct levels of breadth and progression in their learning across all areas of the curriculum. Senior leaders and teachers should continue to develop progression pathways in all areas of the curriculum. This should help support all young people to make better progress in their learning over time and gain more qualifications in the senior phase.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 HMIE's evaluations for Closeburn House

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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 HMIE website at:

[Closeburn House | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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. Outcomes first Group board of directors and senior leaders at Closeburn school will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Emma McFarlane
HM Inspector

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland