20 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2025, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Castlehead 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.

- Young people are a considerable strength of the school. They are confident, welcoming and very proud of their school. They have a strong sense of belonging to their school community and actively seek opportunities to make meaningful improvements.

- The headteacher's authentic, strong and compassionate leadership, ably supported by his depute headteachers, has fostered a culture of ambition, kindness and respect. This is evident in the strong, supportive relationships across the school. Staff at all levels are empowered to lead change.

- Teachers work well together to improve how young people learn. This is leading to greater consistency and higher-quality learning experiences across the school for young people. This results in more young people engaging well in their learning.

- Partners work very effectively with staff to enrich young people's experiences and achievements. They contribute well to supporting staff to meet the needs of young people. This leads to many young people achieving qualifications from within and outwith the school environment.

- Staff in the FLR support young people and their families very well. Young people benefit from bespoke approaches to their learning and nurturing relationships with staff and each other. This leads to them engaging better in their learning, developing confidence and gaining important skills for life.

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

- Continue to develop high-quality teaching and learning across the school. This includes all teachers continuing to work together to develop a shared understanding of each aspect of the Castlehead lesson cycle.

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- Continue to promote aspects of equality and diversity across the school. This should help develop young people's understanding of, and ability to, challenge discrimination, prejudice and intolerance when they come across it.

- Continue to raise attainment for young people, with a focus on young people in S5 and S6.

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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 HMIE's evaluations for Castlehead High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	**very good**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	**good**
Raising attainment and achievement	**good**
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 Castlehead High School | 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. Renfrewshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Frances E. Graham
HM Inspector

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

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