

## People Directorate

### Head Teacher: Elaine McEwan

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Date: 16 January 2023  
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Dear Parent/Carer

In November, a team of representatives of South Ayrshire Council visited Carrick Academy. It is not possible during such visits to explore every aspect of school life. We focussed on learning, teaching, assessment and safeguarding. During our visit, we talked to children/young people, parents/carers and staff. We observed young people learning and explored key documentation.

The team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The strong and coherent leadership from the head teacher and senior management team. By streamlining school priorities and committing to key priorities, staff have fully engaged in professional learning that is positively impacting on pupils' experiences.
- The ethos, inclusive culture and positive relationships between staff and young people. The collegiate staff group have high expectations of young people while at the same time providing a nurturing and caring learning experience.
- The approach that the school has taken to building capacity in teachers to lead and improve learning, teaching and assessment.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head teacher.

#### Areas for Development

- Continue to develop the collaborative approach to improving learning, teaching and assessment through areas such as digital learning, young people leading learning and embedding skills for learning, life, and work.
- Develop manageable and robust approaches to tracking and monitoring the progress of young people in the broad general education.

We gathered evidence to enable us to provide evaluative feedback on the school's work. We used quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools and local authorities to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved.

Yours faithfully

Gavin Pitt  
Lead Quality Improvement Manager  
South Ayrshire Council