

Follow Through Visit Report

School Name: Queensferry Community High School

Date: June 2025

Background

Education Scotland undertake an annual sample of inspections across Scotland covering nursery, primary, special and secondary schools. A letter to parents and carers about each inspection is published approximately three months after the inspection. Based on this letter the school, with the support of the authority, amends its improvement plan to take account of any agreed areas for improvement.

Queensferry High School was inspected in October 2023. In June 2025, a team of Quality Improvement Education Officers and Development Officers from The City of Edinburgh Council visited Queensferry High School. They visited classes; held a range of focus groups with the school community; and worked closely with the Head Teacher and senior leadership team to evidence the progress and improvements which the school had made.

Report

During the inspection visit in October 2023, Education Scotland evaluated the school as follows:

School

Quality Indicator	Evaluation
1.3 Leadership of change	
2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Good

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Highly motivated, articulate and ambitious young people who have high aspirations. They are eager participants in their learning.
- Senior leaders and staff are making effective use of information about young people's progress to raise attainment.
- The strong and effective leadership provided by the headteacher, supported by his senior leadership team, is beginning to improve attainment in key measures in the senior phase.

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

- Staff should build on existing approaches to planning learning to ensure all learning activities are set at the right level of difficulty for young people.
- Continue with plans to improve attainment across the school.

Context of the School

School Roll	1205	Learning Community	Queensferry		
		Care Experienced %	0.75%		
SIMD 1 and 2 %	0.2%	EAL %	7.22%		
Scrutiny Grades		QI 1.3	QI 2.3	QI 3.1	QI 3.2
HMIE School (October 2023)			4		4
School Standards & Quality Report (June 2025)		5	4	4	4

Recommendation One: Findings and Next Steps

Findings

- There is clear progress towards improving pace and challenge and strong practices are evident across many learning experiences.
- The school has embedded a consistent and aspirational approach to learning through its “Queensferry Learns Together” framework and the 5Cs model. This has helped ensure that expectations are clear and learning experiences are more consistent across departments.
- Learners are increasingly confident and engaged in their learning. Through structured opportunities such as pupil voice groups and assemblies, they are beginning to shape their own learning experiences and reflect on their progress.
- Staff are actively involved in professional learning and peer collaboration. This has led to noticeable improvements in the quality of teaching, particularly in how lessons are paced and how challenge is integrated.
- Digital learning is becoming more embedded, with staff using tools like OneNote and iPads to support access and engagement. Some departments are already demonstrating innovative practice in this area.
- The school has improved how it assesses and tracks learning. A revised feedback cycle and new tracking system are helping staff to plan more effectively and intervene earlier when support is needed.

Next Steps

- As planned, school staff should focus on consistency and quality in approaches to differentiation for learners across the school.
- Continue developing high-quality questioning to promote deeper thinking and engagement.
- Build on existing digital practice to enhance creativity, accessibility, and feedback.
- Expand opportunities for learners to influence and co-design their learning and curricular experiences.

Recommendation Two: Findings and Next Steps

Findings

- There is an ambitious and inclusive approach to improving attainment for all young people.
- The school has made significant improvements in literacy and numeracy attainment, particularly for learners with additional support needs and those in the lowest attainment groups. There are improving trends in most attainment measures including CfE Level 3 and 4 and SCQF Level 4 and 5 where performance is now above the virtual comparator.
- Attainment has improved steadily over time, most attainment measures in the senior phase are now exceeding the virtual comparator. This improvement has been supported by a redesigned curriculum and a more strategic approach to planning learner pathways.
- A wide range of new subjects and qualifications, including vocational awards, has been introduced. This reflects a strong commitment to personalisation and to preparing learners for life beyond school.
- The school's tracking systems are being used effectively to identify learners who need support and to plan timely interventions. This is helping to close gaps and ensure more equitable outcomes.
- Learners benefit from a rich wider achievement offer, including over 50 extracurricular activities and a structured skills programme in the BGE phase. These opportunities are helping to build confidence, resilience, and readiness for future learning and work.

Next Steps

- Continue to broaden curriculum pathways, particularly in the senior phase.
- Build on the success of improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF Level 4 and 5 and now focus on improving attainment at SCQF Level 6 in both measures.
- Strengthen how the school tracks and supports the development of skills alongside academic progress.
- Ensure consistent planning and assessment practices are evident across all departments.

Summary

The Quality Improvement Education team found that Queensferry High School had made appropriate progress in the areas highlighted by Education Scotland in December 2023. The Quality Improvement Education Officers for the school will continue to work with the Head Teacher to provide support and to challenge progress across the school with the aim of achieving a very good evaluation by the end of session 25/26. The Head Teacher will continue to report to parents and carers through the Standards and Quality report at the end of each session.