

24 January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Camphill School, Aberdeen**

In February 2016, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and Board of Trustees. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the Head of Education and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children and young people's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

#### **Improve approaches to learning and teaching to meet the needs of all children and young people.**

In the majority of lessons, children and young people are engaged in activities. They respond well when given opportunities to be active in their learning. Improved use of communication support systems has helped children and young people gain a better understanding of the activities they take part in during the school day. Staff should continue with their plans to further develop a whole school approach to meeting the communication needs of all learners. In a few lessons, children and young people do not have a good understanding of what they are learning. Staff need to ensure that learning experiences across the school are relevant, meaningful and matched to the individual needs of all learners. Children and young people are responding well to the increased recognition they receive for their efforts and achievements through certificates and awards.

#### **Further develop the curriculum to ensure it provides challenge, enjoyment and relevance.**

Staff in the school have made a positive start to reviewing the St John's Curriculum framework and how it can be used together with Curriculum for Excellence to provide relevant and meaningful activities. Staff are using experiences and outcomes in their planning and this is leading to more appropriate learning experiences across the school. New approaches to planning to meet the individual needs of learners are having a positive impact on their learning. The school has improved opportunities for young people to achieve in national qualifications across a wider range of subjects.

The school now needs to continue with its plans to further develop the curriculum. In particular, the curriculum for senior pupils should provide more opportunities to develop skills for life, learning and work.

**Further develop approaches to self-evaluation to improve outcomes for all children and young people.**

The Head of Education has provided strong leadership. She has been successful in building a culture of self-evaluation and helping staff reflect on their practice. The school has made a positive start in identifying approaches to tracking children's and young people's progress in learning and personal development. These approaches now need to be developed further to ensure staff have a better understanding of the progress children and young people are making. Senior managers, including the Board of Trustees, need to review and evaluate whole school improvements, with a clearer focus on whether there is any impact on improving outcomes for children and young people.

**What happens next?**

The school has made sufficient progress since the original inspection. 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. The Board of Trustees will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its centres.

Monica McGeever  
HM Inspector

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