



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ARMADALE ACADEMY UPDATE

REPORT BY HEADTEACHER OF ARMADALE ACADEMY

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Committee of the outcome of the Education Scotland (HMI) inspection at Armadale Academy.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the members note the contents of the report and the school's arrangements for continuing improvement.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Education (Scotland) Act 1980, Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2014
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Education Scotland quality indicators are used to measure the performance of schools – How Good Is Our School
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Positive inspection reports are used as a key outcome measure in the Single Outcome Agreement. Positive is measured by satisfactory or better in the quality indicator used by Education Scotland.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	School's Devolved Budget/Pupil Equity Funding
VII	Consideration at PDSP	N/A

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Context of the School

Armadale Academy is a comprehensive secondary school which serves the Blackridge, Armadale and Bathgate catchment areas of West Lothian. Due to considerable house building and redevelopment the school roll has grown significantly. The mission statement “Learning Together, Achieving Together” underpins the school ethos and the collaborative approach taken in school every day. Armadale Academy benefits from a supportive and proactive Parent Council who work closely together with staff.

The newly appointed headteacher Mr Graham Paris who took up post on 4th March 2019 will continue and develop the school’s plans to drive forward improvements required in the identified areas.

D1. The Report

In October 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Armadale Academy. They spoke 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:

- The positive collaborative relationships led by the headteacher, leading to a caring and inclusive ethos, which is supportive of staff and young people.
- Young people with a clear sense of pride in their school. They are polite and well-mannered and interact positively with their teachers. They are keen to learn and most work diligently on the tasks planned for them.
- The school offers an increasing variety of courses and awards for young people to study. This is helping to meet the needs and aspirations of all learners. The targeted support for pupils when required is also supporting better outcomes.
- The encouraging trends in aspects of the achievement as well as positive attainment outcome in some subjects areas. The good practice in these areas should continue to be shared with all staff.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from West Lothian Council:

- School leaders should continue to increase and improve teacher, pupil and partner leadership opportunities. This will enable all in the community to have a sense of ownership in moving the school forward.
- There should be a continued focus on improving outcomes for all young people to make sure they achieve as much as possible during their time at school. Staff should continue to ensure that young people experience high quality learning and teaching in all classes. Teachers should build on existing good practice to ensure consistent experiences for all.

- All young people should be well supported to improve their sense of wellbeing as they progress through school. Staff should consider how best to involve the whole community in discussing and agreeing areas of wellbeing.
- Staff at all levels should continue to build their skills in the use of data in order to be able to track young people's attainment and also to provide the right support at the right time.

E. CONCLUSION

Inspectors are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The school is well supported by West Lothian Council.

The new headteacher is committed to engaging with staff, students, parents and the wider community, including local and national employers, to shape a shared vision for delivering both excellence and equity moving forward.

Key priorities moving forward are to address the areas for improvement in the Inspection report whilst also working closely with the community to restore community trust and pride in the school.**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Education Scotland Report:

<https://education.gov.scot/assets/inspectionreports/armadaleacademyins290119.pdf>

Summarised Inspection Findings:

<https://education.gov.scot/assets/inspectionreports/armadaleacademysif290119.pdf>**Error!**

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Appendices/Attachments: None**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

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