

30 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, HM Inspectors published a letter on Hillside School, Aberdour. The letter set out an area for improvement which we agreed with the school and the proprietor. We subsequently visited the school in May 2025. In January 2026, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to young people and worked closely with the headteacher and the proprietor. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at the school's progress in improving governance arrangements. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting young people. This letter sets out what we found.

Governance arrangements

Overall, the school has made good progress in strengthening governance arrangements. The proprietor and senior leaders have continued to enhance their role in relation to governance. They have successfully embedded a range of appropriate key performance indicators to help monitor school performance. Supported by external partners, the proprietor and senior leaders have put in place a robust framework to examine the quality of school performance and ensure the wellbeing of young people and staff. The proprietor and senior leaders are meeting regularly to fulfil their governance duties, recording their findings effectively using improved documentation. They have a clearer focus on measuring the school's performance in relation to safeguarding and child protection, managing complaints and school improvement. The proprietor and senior leaders, supported by external partners, should continue to take steps to distinguish more clearly governance arrangements from operational matters.

What happens next?

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The proprietor will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of the school's work.

Steven McPherson
HM Inspector

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