



Kelso High School: Improvement Report 2023-2024

School Context

Kelso High School serves a diverse community of 592 students aged 11–18 from Kelso and surrounding areas. It has a strong partnership with local primary schools and enjoys support from the community and local businesses. The school is led by a committed staff team focused on creating an inclusive, aspirational environment for learners to achieve their potential.

Vision and Values: "The Kelso Way"

The school's vision emphasises **Participation, Respect, Inclusion, Determination, and Excellence**, guiding daily life at Kelso High School. Core expectations are for everyone to be **Ready, Be Respectful & Kind and Be Safe**.

Key Achievements

- Apple Distinguished School and Digital Schools Award status 2024-2027
- Sports Scotland Gold Award.
- Significant success with intergenerational community projects and initiatives like Dynamic Youth Awards.

Improvements and Focus Areas

- 1. Learning, Teaching, and Attainment**
 - Digital learning is integrated across subjects, with platforms like Showbie providing tools for feedback and tracking progress.
 - New courses and interventions in literacy and numeracy are helping learners achieve qualifications.
 - More S4 courses (increased from six to seven) and new senior phase curriculum pathways have been introduced.
- 2. Inclusive Practices and Wellbeing**
 - Support for vulnerable learners includes nurture groups, literacy/numeracy interventions, and wellbeing initiatives.
 - Transition support for P7 learners helps ease the move to secondary school.
 - Digital tools like the Glasgow Wellbeing Toolkit are used to support S1 learners.
 - The Dyslexia Hub provides tailored resources for learners with additional needs.
- 3. Engagement with Parents and the Community**
 - Regular communication through social media, parent evenings, and projects keeps families informed and involved.
 - Showbie allows parents to view their child's progress.
 - Increased opportunities for learners to lead initiatives, like pupil parliaments and local projects.
- 4. Focus on Attendance**
 - Efforts to improve attendance for targeted learners have seen success, with average attendance increasing from 64% to 74%.
 - Flexible strategies address barriers to attendance and engagement.
- 5. Raising Attainment**

- Data-driven teaching and assessment are helping track learner progress and implement necessary interventions.
- Programs like "Inspiring Young Minds" offer tailored support for learners at risk of disengagement, ensuring they achieve positive destinations.

Looking Ahead: Key Priorities for 2024-25

- Continued focus on **raising attainment** and **improving attendance**.
- Expanding learner leadership roles and engagement opportunities.
- Reintroducing the House System with more school-wide activities.
- Engaging with programs like “Equally Safe at School” to address issues like gender-based violence.
- Strengthening the use of digital tools to further enhance learning experiences.

Kelso High School is committed to ensuring every learner thrives academically and personally, with the support of families and the wider community. For further details or support, please reach out to the school.