

## Independent Schools Annual Engagement Visit Record 2016/17

Name of HMI	Date	Name of HT	Name of Establishment
	15/2/17	Melvyn Rolfe	George Watson's College

Professional engagement	<p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLT</li> <li>• Safeguarding coordinators</li> <li>• Junior School Pupils</li> <li>• Senior School Pupil</li> <li>• DHTs/AHTs Nursery/Primary/Senior</li> <li>• PTs Modern Studies, Geography, Biology and Technology</li> </ul> <p>Other activities carried out during the visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour of Junior school with two pupils.</li> </ul>
Main Points/Issues Covered	<p><u>Leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of leadership including self-evaluation and tracking. The school has been developing an interesting approach to self-evaluation to co-ordinate approaches across the whole school. This includes approaches to tracking progress</li> <li>• NB – the SLT is fairly new. The Head of the Senior School has been in post for under a year with the Head of the Junior School only starting recently.</li> </ul> <p><u>Governance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New chair of Governors has been appointed</li> </ul> <p><u>Curriculum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion with AHT (Senior School) and 4 PTs regarding plans to develop the first year curriculum in social studies and STEM. School had obviously been giving a lot of thought to this. An interesting discussion on interdisciplinary learning.</li> </ul> <p><u>Standards of Attainment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High attainment is a consistent feature of the school. The school is introducing a management system to track attainment. The school uses the SCIS profile of comparator school.</li> <li>• Senior staff are very competent in discussing attainment across the school</li> </ul>

## Link HM Inspector for Independent Schools

	<p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school submitted self-evaluation information related to child protection and safeguarding. Inspectors discussed this information with relevant staff and where appropriate, children. In addition, inspectors examined a sample of safeguarding documentation. At the time of the visit, there were no identified areas for development.</li> </ul> <p><u>Priorities for improvement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeting Achievement</li> <li>Engaging, innovative learning and teaching</li> <li>Staff Collaborative working – to ensure a shared understanding of school improvement.</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<p>Further Action Required cc: AD cc: LO</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Other Comments</p>	<p>George Watson's has a real 'family feel' throughout the school. Relationships across the school are very strong and positive. Staff and pupils who engaged in this visit were very positive about all aspects of school life. Senior pupils were very reflective on the 'George Watson's Journey' and how this had prepared them for their future academic careers.</p> <p>An interesting feature to note is how the the P1to 3 classes are organised. – 5 teaching wings with a P1/P2/P3 class in each wing – creating a small school feel.</p>
<p>If there is a nursery, is it in partnership with the LA. ie do they have funded places?</p> <p>Details of any recent inspection by the Care Inspectorate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. Nursery is for pre-school year only.</li> <li>Recent Care Inspection had excellent for all evaluations.</li> </ul>