

## SPSO decision report

**Case:** 201102124, Glasgow City Council  
**Sector:** local government  
**Subject:** secondary school  
**Outcome:** not upheld, action taken by body to remedy, no recommendations

### Summary

Mrs C raised a complaint on behalf of her son about the council's handling of an allegation of plagiarism (passing off someone else's work as one's own) in relation to his school work. In particular, Mrs C was unhappy that, after admitting that the plagiarism accusation had been made in error, the council would not allow her son to submit as his higher music composition the piece of work which had been the subject of the allegation.

Our investigation established, however, that there was evidence that music staff had given their professional opinion that the piece of work was not of a satisfactory standard and would not have passed at higher level. We were also satisfied that the evidence showed that the council had taken reasonable steps to remedy the complaint by giving Mrs C's son further opportunities to submit the composition element of his higher music.