



Ofsted Inspection 16th and 17th May 2023

Woodlands Primary School was inspected by two HMI Ofsted inspectors on 16th and 17th of May 2023. I am delighted to say that **Woodlands has been graded as a “good school”** and we have been **graded as consistently Good in all five categories – Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years Provision**. We are particularly pleased with this result because the Ofsted Grading Criteria was made significantly tougher from September 2019 onwards and the school received a Section 5 Graded Inspection which is much more rigorous than a short Section 8 Inspection.

We were very proud of the children who were great ambassadors for us over the two days. I would like to thank the entire teaching / support staff team and the Governors for their hard work and dedication. We are very lucky to have such a talented team of teachers and TAs who ensure that all pupils thrive at Woodlands.

The OFSTED inspectors described our school as good in various ways:

- **Woodlands is a highly inclusive school.** Pupils feel proud to attend. They enjoy school and talk enthusiastically about their learning. Pupils have warm relationships with adults.
- Staff say there is a ‘family feel’. This starts in the early years, where staff nurture and care for children well. Many parents agree.
- Leaders have worked hard to ensure that staff apply the behaviour policy consistently. They have established clear reward systems. Pupils enjoy these and this motivates them to do well. They are polite and courteous to visitors.
- Leaders have considered the curriculum beyond the academic. In doing so, they have carefully considered the school’s context. They have carefully planned a series of milestones that pupils should experience before they leave in Year 6. These ensure that pupils develop their character and understand the world around them.
- Pupils enjoy a range of clubs to develop interests, such as cookery, art and basketball. Through links to a neighbouring school, pupils develop their musical talents in the school choir.
- Leaders have improved the school significantly since the last inspection.
- Leaders prioritise staff’s well-being and take workload into account. Staff recognise the changes in the school. They feel that leaders treat everyone equally. Staff feel proud to work at Woodlands.

OFSTED were particularly praiseworthy of the School’s ambitious curriculum:

- Leaders, including those relatively new to their roles, have continuously checked the curriculum for its impact. They have drawn on external support to support this. As a result, leaders know the strengths and weaknesses of the school well.
- **Leaders have established an ambitious curriculum from nursery to Year 6.** They have given considerable thought as to when pupils learn different subjects to maximise how much they learn. The curriculum is well sequenced so that pupils’ knowledge builds on what they have learned in the past. For example, in mathematics, leaders’ emphasis on fluency means pupils can solve more complex problems efficiently.
- Leaders have raised expectations of what pupils should learn. They do not make excuses for pupils’ backgrounds. This has resulted in pupils developing a much deeper knowledge of the curriculum than in the past. For example, in art and design, pupils can recall the work of famous artists and the techniques they used. In history, pupils confidently talk about historical events, such as the Great Fire of London.
- **Leaders have established a consistent and rigorous approach to the teaching of early reading.** Children learn to read as soon as they start in Reception. Leaders have trained staff in this approach. Consequently, most staff implement the phonics curriculum well.
- Leaders have placed a clear emphasis on developing pupils’ oracy. In the nursery, staff share stories and songs to promote early language skills. Younger pupils learn discussion skills through the personal, social and health curriculum. Teachers model how to respond to questions so that pupils speak in full sentences. Additionally, they ensure that pupils learn subject-specific vocabulary throughout the curriculum.

OFSTED also praised the school’s provision for pupils with SEND:

- Staff know the pupils and families well. **They adapt provision well for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.** Pupils, including those with complex needs, learn the same broad and balanced curriculum.

Personal Development was identified as another strong area:

- **Pupils' personal development is a strength of Woodlands.** They learn about the importance of mental and physical health. Pupils know the importance of respecting different opinions. Through the school council, pupils have a voice in the running of the school. They can talk about different religions and cultures. As a result, pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

The Governance of the school was another very strong area:

- **Governance is a strength of the school.** Following the previous inspection, the governing body commissioned a series of reviews and training to strengthen their roles. Governors now know the school well. This is because they diligently scrutinise and check the information that leaders present to them. Their evaluation of the school is accurate.

Safeguarding is a crucial area for all schools and this was identified as very effective:

- **Leaders place safeguarding as its highest priority.** They have established a culture where staff understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Staff note down any concerns they have, however small. Leaders act swiftly on these concerns. They escalate these as necessary. Staff work tirelessly with a variety of agencies to ensure that families get the ongoing support they need. Inspection report: Woodlands Primary School 16 and 17 May 2023 4 Governors make regular checks on aspects of the safeguarding work, including records of recruitment. Pupils know how to stay safe online. They know the importance of not sharing personal details with strangers.

I would also like to thank the parents who completed positive surveys about the school on Ofsted Parent View and wrote letters of support to Ofsted. The full report will accompany this letter and it will be available on the school website and the Ofsted website from Wednesday 28th June.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Kitley

Headteacher

Message from Mrs Mills (Chair of Governors)

On behalf of the Governors at Woodlands Primary School I would like to say a huge CONGRATULATIONS and thank you to Mr.Kitley and the staff for the excellent OFSTED report they received after their inspection on May 16th / 17th

The report confirms that Woodlands Primary School is a very happy and caring school, where the standard of education which your children receive is very high. The Ofsted outcome is the result of high aspiration and incredibly hard work and dedication from Mr. Kitley and all his staff. Governors are very privileged to be a part of such a happy and high-achieving school.

Karen Mills