



Gaddesden Row JMI School

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Tuesday 21st November, 2023

A letter from the Governors re: Ofsted Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you as your governing board to share our delight with the outcome of our recent Ofsted Inspection, which took place in October 2023. The overall judgement and rating assigned to the school being **'Good'**. We are extremely happy with this grading, which is also in-line with our own expectations going into this inspection.

There are many successes highlighted by the Ofsted Inspectors and they also recognise the challenges that we, as a small school, face. We are also working with leaders to address the areas identified as requiring development.

We now wish to share with you some of the feedback given by the inspectors which is not in the official report, but which were noted down from our meetings with the Lead Inspector. We hope you will find these useful and they are laid out below across the key areas covered during the two days inspection.

Safeguarding

- The school is safe but not cosy, meaning no complacency when it comes to safeguarding.
- Meticulous record keeping throughout was noted.
- The children love being at school.
- The overall effectiveness of Safeguarding is excellent.

Quality of Education

- Pupils get off to a great start in school.
- There is a love of reading which is also supported in later years.
- Teachers use creative ways to assess how much the children are learning.
- Leaders have mapped the coverage of work across the year, giving a great framework.

Behaviour and Attitudes

- Expectations are high and excellent behaviour was observed throughout the inspection.
- Pupils feel well supported and are very happy at school.
- The high standards in behaviour are reflected in the low number of incidents.

Personal Development

- Pupils are confident, relaxed and well prepared for the world.
- Pupils are all welcoming and understand inclusivity, setting them up well for life in modern Britain.
- The school provides enrichment trips which include all years, and these are always linked to the curriculum across the whole school.

- Linking after school clubs to the enrichment trips and curriculum would help the school achieve a higher grading in this area in the future.

Attendance

- Attendance in the school is poor regarding 'persistent absenteeism' despite the schools' best efforts to improve.
- There has been a rise in attendance throughout the school due to the success of incentives put in place. The focus of the school on this topic is evident, however there is still work to be done.
- It is important to note that children being absent from school for unauthorised leave is impacting the overall ability of the school to achieve a higher Ofsted grading.

Leadership and Management

- Staff are very happy at the school and feel supported by the overall Senior Leadership Team.
- The quality of governance is high, with a strong sense of moral duty.
- Safeguarding is excellent.
- There is challenge for everyone to progress and be the best they can throughout the school.
- Standards are meticulous, persistent, and overall effectiveness is excellent.
- It was noted during the inspection that this area of school performance is also one in which we could achieve a higher grading in future.

Early Years Provision

- Pupils get off to a great start at school and feel confident in their setting.
- Attainment of the children is strong coming out of early years which proves they are getting exactly what they need to progress.
- The curriculum in early years is quite complex, and although the standard of education is high, this format of curriculum could be hard for another teacher to replicate. Working on simplifying this for any teacher to run would be a good improvement for the school to make.

I am sure you will agree that the above shows the outstanding work being done by the school, but there is more we can do. The single largest issue affecting the school performance and the education of our children, is the amount of time they are absent for non-medical reasons. Please do continue to work with the school to ensure your children are in school, as you can clearly see they enjoy being here, and love learning in this very precious and wonderful setting. With your help, we can ensure that the school can continue to be here for our future generations to enjoy and we thank you for your support!

We would like to end with a massive CONGRATULATIONS to all of you for making the school and its community the wonderful and high performing place it is today. The governors would like to thank all staff at Gaddesden Row for their huge contribution, especially noting the high standard of teaching and leadership, to which all teaching staff contribute, whether through their SLT roles or subject leads. We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful place for our children to learn and grow.

We wish you a fantastic end to your year and look forward to a great year ahead in 2024.



Kathryn Sagers, Chair of Governors
(Signed on behalf of the full governing board)