



Spire Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mr Walls

Success, Happiness, Inspiration, Nurture, Everyone

Email: Admin@SpireFederation.co.uk Website: SpireFederation.co.uk
Twitter: @DigbyPrimary @DunstonPrimary @NoctonPrimary

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, Dunston St Peter's CE Primary School was inspected by Ofsted at the beginning of February – the report has just been released to us this week and is attached to this Parent Mail.

Since Dunston was last inspected in January 2017 the expectations around schools have raised considerably and it has become significantly more difficult to achieve a Good grading from Ofsted.

We are therefore delighted to share with you that Ofsted's judgement was that Dunston St Peter's continues to be judged as a **GOOD** school!

When reading the report you will notice the many positives for the children who attend school – there are many strengths relating to the academic provision, the supportive, positive ethos and the opportunities provided to prepare them well for life.

Leaders, governors and staff are proud of their small and community-focused school. They have ensured that lessons focus on encouraging pupils to be aspirational, to consider their own well-being and to understand society. Leaders have high expectations of pupils. Pupils behave well. They focus on their learning and are attentive in their lessons.

The Inspection team spoke to a range of pupils, parents, staff and Governors and made their own observations on behaviour throughout school. They were very impressed by the calm, purposeful environment they witnessed – both in class and at playtimes.

Much of this is due to the positive, trusted relationships the children have with staff and to the ethos that has been created throughout school.

Pupils are polite and confident. They talk maturely with visitors. They interact positively with one another. Staff work hard to provide pupils with effective support when they need help to manage their behaviour. Pupils behave well in classrooms and during social times.

Pupils feel safe. They are not worried about bullying. Should pupils have concerns, they know to share them with staff. Pupils talk positively about their relationships with staff. Every adult knows every child well. One pupil, typical of many, said that they like coming to the school because they 'trust the adults' who work there. Parents and carers talked at the school gates about the positive and nurturing environment in the school.

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We were delighted to hear of such overwhelmingly positive messages from parents and carers – both from those who spoke to the Inspection team and from those who responded to Ofsted’s Parent View questionnaire. Thank you. Although as a school staff, we do not get to see the actual comments, we were privileged to have some of them shared with us and it was so encouraging to see that you value the work of our little school so highly.

The comments around the teaching of the curriculum are very positive. Reshaping and refining our curriculum has been a significant piece of work over the last 18 months and we are delighted that Ofsted validated all that we are doing.

Leaders have designed an ambitious curriculum. They have identified what pupils will learn and when. Before studying a topic, teachers share with pupils the important knowledge they should remember. This helps pupils to focus on and recall this knowledge. Many pupils have a secure understanding of the subjects they study. In the early years, staff work well with children to develop their reading, writing and mathematical knowledge.

SEND was a key focus of the visit and I am pleased to report that provision was seen as a strength.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) study the same curriculum as their peers. Staff identify these pupils’ needs promptly. Leaders have created pupil passports to ensure that staff have the information they need to adapt their teaching for pupils with SEND.

Likewise, the inspectors felt that the children were being well prepared for life in modern Britain, much of this is achieved through our PSHE curriculum and by our work on British Values and Protected Characteristics.

Leaders have adopted a well-sequenced personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme. Pupils learn about topics including healthy lifestyles and celebrating difference.

Ofsted are very keen to assess Leadership as this affects the capacity to improve. There were no surprises for us as a leadership team. Our Next Steps had already been identified and were being worked on. There is a clear focus on developing pedagogy - the study of teaching. Having worked on the ‘What’ of teaching through our reshaping of the curriculum, our focus is now on the ‘How’ of teaching, making sure that there is greater consistency of approach

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however the actions were not yet sufficiently embedded to be able to demonstrate the required impact across all teaching observed.

Some teachers do not consistently select the best activities to help pupils learn the planned curriculum. Leaders have identified this as a priority. Staff talk about the training they have accessed in relation to effective teaching strategies. This work is beginning to have an impact. The work in pupils' books often demonstrates that the curriculum and teaching are ambitious.

We are fortunate to have such strong links across the Spires family of schools and I would like to thank the leaders, and Governors, for all that they have done to help achieve this result. This Ofsted was our third in 14 months and at time of writing we are awaiting the release of a SIAMS (Church Inspection) report at another of our schools. The journey that each of our schools is on has been a true team effort.

The staff, from the front office to the classrooms, work hard to give the children of Dunston the very best education offer possible, they keep them safe, care for them – and provide a range of extra curricular clubs that would be the envy of many a larger school. They go the extra mile every day and I am so pleased they have received this recognition.

Pupils take part in a range of clubs and trips. They comment enthusiastically about gardening club, book club and cooking club. Pupils grow and then cook food, using the school's allotment. They take part in sporting activities, such as football. Pupils enjoy educational visits to Lincoln Castle and the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham. They take part in annual charity events, such as 'Rudy's Run'.

Thank you too, to our parents and carers for all of your continued support. I know that Dunston St Peter's CE Primary School is a very dear part of the local community, and I know that your support is hugely valued by the staff here.

Kind Regards

C.Walls
Executive Headteacher

A. Hancy
Chair of Governors



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