

Inspection of a good school: St Peter's CofE Primary School

Old Church Road, Harborne, Birmingham, West Midlands B17 0BE

Inspection dates:

10 and 11 October 2023

Outcome

St Peters CofE Primary School continues to be a good school.

What is it like to attend this school?

This school has many strengths. There are high expectations for behaviour and learning, and pupils respond very well to these. The school's broad curriculum is efficiently organised, lessons run smoothly and pupils achieve much. In English and mathematics, for example, standards are strong and pupils are well prepared for secondary school.

As well as classroom learning, pupils take part in trips and carry out jobs to help others. This supports them to take responsibility and show initiative. From Nursery to Year 6, there is a pride in the school. This is evident in the high-quality displays of work, and the attitudes of leaders, staff and pupils towards their work and each another.

Relationships are caring, supportive and reflect the school's Christian values. In class and on the playground, pupils get along and consider one another's feelings. Bullying is uncommon but pupils are taught how to spot it and report it should it happen. The school has informed and attentive routines for keeping pupils safe and promoting good behaviour.

Pupils and parents value being part of the school community. They have many positive things to say about school life and how happy the pupils are at this well-led, inclusive school.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

St Peter's Primary is a successful school. It is well led and managed, has a motivated staff and provides a worthwhile curriculum. Consequently, it continues to offer a good-quality education. Indeed, in several aspects, the school has strengthened its work since the previous inspection.

This is because leaders have made informed and effective decisions about ongoing school improvement. The teaching of early reading, for example, is now even stronger than

before. Staff have had recent training, the school has new resources, and phonics lessons take place daily. If any pupils take longer to learn, then staff provide additional tuition. This continues into key stage 2, when necessary. Once pupils can read fluently, staff introduce them to lots of books and, by Year 6, pupils have an impressive knowledge of different authors. Similarly, informed leadership of mathematics is reflected in pupils' achievements.

This attention to staff training and ongoing development is also apparent in other subjects. In art and design, for instance, subject-specific training has brought significant improvements to the curriculum and pupils' learning. Informed thinking has ensured a clear line of sight in learning from early years through to Year 6. New learning builds securely on what has gone before. Pupils grow in confidence, competence and feel good about their achievements. This way of thinking is guiding curriculum development in other subjects too. However, curriculum sequencing in some foundation subjects is better developed than others. Leaders know this and have realistic plans for future curriculum development.

But St Peter's C of E Primary is not just all about learning in class. Starting in early years, there is a commitment to learning outdoors and purposeful activity that develops both mind and body. Throughout the school pupils go on trips to places near and far, including three residential stays away from home in key stage 2. On top of this, the school has recently introduced a new personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education programme. This supports pupils to develop a positive, optimistic outlook on life, to think about others and to stay safe.

Most pupils have high attendance. When necessary, school staff work with parents and external services to improve the attendance of any pupils who miss too much school. This multi-agency working is also a strong feature of the school's provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The school successfully meets a range of different needs. A well-trained SEND team supports this work and ensures that needs are identified accurately. With appropriate support, pupils participate in all aspects of school life and access the same curriculum as their peers.

School staff say that leaders consider their views and workload when making decisions. They value the school's investment in regular training and recognise the positive impact this has on their work.

Many parents express high levels of satisfaction with the school's work and engagement with the community. They drew particular attention to the purposeful learning and level of care provided for their children. Inspection evidence supports these views. Indeed, safety arrangements at the childcare club and during the school day, including when pupils move between the two sites, are managed well. Lessons, learning and playtimes run smoothly and safely because of the climate of respect in school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Curriculum thinking and design in some foundation subjects is stronger than others. In some foundation subjects, the curriculum either tries to cover too much or some aspects do not receive enough attention. The school should continue to strengthen curriculum sequencing so that pupils can make the best possible progress in all subjects.
- The school's new PSHE curriculum is at an early stage of implementation. Further staff training is planned but has not yet taken place. The school should ensure that all staff understand how to implement the PSHE curriculum well.

Background

When we have judged a school to be good, we will then normally go into the school about once every four years to confirm that the school remains good. This is called an ungraded inspection, and it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. We do not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection. However, if we find evidence that a school would now receive a higher or lower grade, then the next inspection will be a graded inspection, which is carried out under section 5 of the Act. Usually this is within one to two years of the date of the ungraded inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will deem the ungraded inspection a graded inspection immediately.

This is the second ungraded inspection since we judged the school to be good in December 2013.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use Ofsted Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further guidance on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for published performance information about the school.

In the report, 'disadvantaged pupils' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the definition of children in need of help and protection; pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's pupil premium funding (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).