



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMERLEA C.P. SCHOOL



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'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'



Thursday 14th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

OFSTED Inspection 26th – 27th February 2019

We have now received the final report from OFSTED following our inspection on 26th and 27th February 2019. The full report will be published on the OFSTED website tomorrow (www.ofsted.gov.uk) and we are able to inform parents and carers of the outcome in advance.

The grades that can be awarded are 'Outstanding', 'Good', 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'.

In this inspection, the Quality of teaching, learning and assessment, Personal development, behaviour and welfare, and Early years provision were graded as 'Good'. However, our school was judged overall as 'Requires Improvement'.

We knew that Key Stage 2 performance data, over the past three years, would be one of our key issues. Although we have made significant improvements in this area since July 2017, we understood that inspectors would not be able to judge Outcomes for pupils or Effectiveness of leadership and management as 'Good' and this has been reflected in the report. As per the rules in the Ofsted framework, if there are two or more areas that require improvement, then the Overall Effectiveness judgement is based on this.

The inspectors found our school has lots of strengths and recognised that we are already making progress towards ensuring improved outcomes for all pupils. We would like to draw your attention to the following within the report:-

OFSTED said that the work that our school is doing is making improvements and that school *"leaders have a comprehensive understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses and are working tirelessly to ensure sustained improvement in pupils' attainment and progress"* and that governors *"work hard to support the senior leaders and are ambitious for the school"*.

The inspectors recognised the work of leadership at all levels *"Middle leaders are enthusiastic and knowledgeable. They have had a positive impact on teaching and learning and are well supported by senior leaders"*.

They were impressed with our *"broad, balanced and rich curriculum overseen by the subject leaders"*. They saw that, *"The wider curriculum enthuses pupils"* and that *"Forest school motivates pupils to learn and they demonstrate a love of learning outdoors. Pupils can articulate previous learning and they work collaboratively across the curriculum."*



Ofsted said that, *“Teachers use their good subject knowledge to explain ideas clearly to pupils and they carefully question pupils. Teachers are quick to identify misconceptions and misunderstandings and then address these successfully.”*

Our Learning Support Assistants *“provide high-quality support for pupils. They encourage pupils to apply their knowledge, giving just the right amount of help so that pupils solve problems independently. Teaching assistants are skilled in using a range of strategies to guide pupils and ensure that they remain calm and confident.”*

They also said, *“The inclusion team has a good understanding of the support that pupils need” and “Additional funding is used effectively to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).”*

Inspectors identified that the welfare of the pupils is at the heart of our school’s work and said *“All staff form good relationships with pupils. There is a culture of inclusivity and care. Pupils’ conduct is good and their attitudes to learning are positive.”* They said, *“Pupils show great enthusiasm and are keen to share their ideas and thoughts. Pupils are keen to take on responsibilities and talk with pride about their school.”*

Ofsted saw that, *“Reception children develop positive attitudes to learning. They are curious and able to concentrate for sustained periods of time. Adults skillfully extend children’s learning through thoughtful questioning, encouraging children to think deeply as they play.”*

There are many other points that you will be able to read for yourself. Obviously, inspectors also highlighted key areas that require improvement and what we need to do to improve further:-

- *“Senior leaders and governors to strengthen leadership and management and improve outcomes for pupils by taking timely, precise actions that are based on careful evaluation.”*
- *“Continue to build on the recent positive changes and the capacity of middle leaders to sustain improvement in teaching and learning and overcome historic underperformance.”*
- *“Strengthen constructive relationships between senior leaders, staff and parents, and ensure a clear understanding of the reasons for change, the improvements this brings about and how they can all play a positive role in further developing the school community.”*

The overall outcome of the inspection is, of course, very disappointing for staff and it will undoubtedly be disappointing for you as parents. However, it was not a surprise given the significant changes and challenges that the school has faced in recent years, and we are pleased that OFSTED could see the many improvements already made. All staff in school remain fully committed to providing the very best education and care for the children.

With the publication of the report, now is the time to look forward and continue to ensure the children of Summerlea Community Primary School receive the high-quality education they deserve, in a safe environment, where all children are supported to reach their potential.

We hope that you will take the time to read the inspection report in full. A copy of the report can be found on our website: <https://www.summerlea.w-sussex.sch.uk> > Our School > Ofsted & ParentView. Hard copies are also available from the office on request.

We will continue to keep you up to date with progress towards our school improvement priorities and would like to thank you for the support you have shown the school.

If you have any questions about the report then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Morris

Mrs Helen Morris
Headteacher



Mrs Bev Crowter
Chair of Governors