

5th June 2024

Inspection of Kenton Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now received the final version of the Ofsted report for our school and I would like to share this with you.

It was a full graded inspection across two days, with up to three inspectors visiting at times across the period of the inspection. The inspectors completed deep dives in all Ofsted areas with separate judgements for each, in addition to Reading, Mathematics and History.

The process was rigorous, and the inspectors were clear that although the school had been through a huge amount due to the flooding, were inspecting Kenton as they would any other school, and so the good judgement in all areas is something that we are incredibly proud of.

The inspection report is short and does not demonstrate the level of scrutiny and depth of the inspection across a full two-day period, so I would like to provide some additional detail.

The children were fantastic, and were a credit to you, the school and themselves. They shone, and the pride they had for their school was wonderful to see. Behaviour is very good at Kenton, and the children were at ease with the inspectors when answering questions about subjects, lessons, safeguarding and opportunities that they have been given which they enjoy.

The level of ambition within the curriculum was recognised, and the team have worked incredibly hard across the last two years to ensure that it meets the needs of all learners, being focussed on our local area but being driven by ensuring that the standards and expectations are high. The deep dives in History, Reading and Mathematics were very positive; the subject leaders within the school were able to talk confidently about how they support pupils and other staff members in delivering high quality learning opportunities.

We do agree with the inspection team that some areas of the curriculum, although well planned and in place, have not yet become embedded; the children have a relatively new curriculum and do not necessarily have the prior knowledge to ensure key facts are secure in every subject. We are also very proactive in ensuring that training for staff is of good quality and a high priority, so we also agree that we do want to continue to upskill all staff to the same standard that we can demonstrate in the teaching of Reading, Mathematics and History across the school.

The support for pupils with additional needs is a strength, and it was also clear from the deep dives, that the curriculum is ambitious for all pupils, including those children working at greater depth. The

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Executive Headteacher - **Lorraine Curry**

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Early Years provision is strong, the learning is personalised, where pupils demonstrate engagement and concentration.

Safeguarding is effective; pupils feel safe and have trusted adults who they can go to. All relevant checks are in place, with detailed records, quality training and excellent processes securing high standards in this area.

The History curriculum is carefully designed, concepts are sequenced, and pupils demonstrate a secure knowledge and understanding of previous learning. Pupils can articulate the impact of history on the world today, their sense of chronology is good, and children enjoy the subject. Mathematics is taught well, with the use of team teaching and coaching being an integral part of how the quality of teaching over time has improved.

Small schools have found the Ofsted framework increasingly challenging over the past few years; a small team equates to staff having a much greater degree of responsibility. Everyone carries several subject areas, which require a high level of knowledge and expertise. Teaching assistants must be well trained in delivery reading and maths concepts to pupils, whilst managing many other aspects of school life, so days are busy. Workload for the team is substantial, and the inspector rightly captured the fact that 'staff do all that they can for the children to ensure that they feel happy and have everything they need...'

I am so proud of the team and the children at Kenton Primary School. As a school family, we have been through so much this year, and are still on an exciting journey, as we look to find out soon what the plans are for us longer term. Everyone gives so much, and Kenton is a wonderful place to be each day.

I want to say a special thank you to Mrs Pattison, who has worked tirelessly since September, to ensure that pupils, families and staff have received the best that we can offer. To achieve this Ofsted result in the face of adversity is a unique achievement and thoroughly deserved.

Could I also thank you as our parents and carers, who have supported us so much in many different ways. Schools face many challenges now which are on a different level to anything we have seen before, so to have a parent group who is there with us cannot ever be underestimated.

I hope that you share a sense of achievement when you read this report, and I look forward to continuing to share Kenton's journey with you.

Kind regards
Lorraine Curry

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