



Colyton Primary Academy

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Head of School: Mrs Aerfen Mills

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: OFSTED Report Colyton Primary Academy

Following Ofsted's most recent visit to Colyton Primary Academy, their report is now due for publication. I therefore am writing to inform you of the outcome and some explanation about what it shows.

This was Ofsted's first visit since our last inspection in 2019 where the school was judged as 'inadequate'. The school then left the previous federation and effectively 'closed'. Following this, it became an Academy and joined the First Federation Trust in 2020.

This inspection was therefore an 'graded' inspection and lasted two days. The school was measured on the following areas; quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early years provision.

I am delighted and thrilled to tell you that the report shows we are
'Good' in all areas! Whoo Hoo!!

Since September 2024, there is no overall grading for a school but I think you can work out what it would have been!

This is a milestone moment for us! Our last 'good' inspection was in 2014, we had a 'requires improvement' in 2017. We have worked tirelessly, particularly over the last five years to ensure that the school is the best it can be, including throughout the pandemic.

I have read many OFSTED reports in the last few years and I can tell you that ours is *exceptionally* good and we are all thrilled.

The fact that we are now in a position where every aspect of our school has been praised is testament to the dedication and efforts of so many people in our school community and within the First Federation Trust.

That is why, before I expand on what the inspection team found, I simply want to say thank you to you all. The inspector was exceptionally positive about our school and school community. They commented that the parent view and staff questionnaires were some of the most positive that they had seen and this filled my heart with pride. To know that you have been with us every step of the way was one of the highlights of the experience for me. The support we have received from our community and Trust has been an instrumental part of this too.

At the conclusion of two days of inspection, the inspectors shared so many positives with us that we were flooded with tears of happiness.

'A school to be proud of, a school that encourages, a school that inspires'



The Report:

The report praises the school for its “friendly community” and how children “arrive each day with smiles on their faces and an eagerness to learn”. They note that the children **MEET** the **high expectations** that we set for them and that they follow our three key principles; to try, be caring and kind and to be safe. They noted how children “try when something is hard until they succeed” as well as having a “deep sense of kindness and empathy towards others”.

The report comments on our excellent and aspirational curriculum highlighting how, “in all subjects, it is designed with care” where the knowledge and “ambitious vocabulary” are identified. They were also impressed with how the children are making links in all of their learning and this is aided by their recall.

One of the best things was that they noted how all our children join in with learning, that the lessons allow *everyone* to take part and that children with SEND needs “get high-quality support to meet their needs”. Being an inclusive school is one of our key drivers so we were pleased that this was recognised.

The report highly praises our focus on reading. They said, “children love to read” and that it “takes them to an imaginary world” They were impressed with the way we approach and teach reading, again our high expectations for all children, our interventions and range of books that children are exposed to. They say, “As a result, pupils become confident, fluent readers”. Again, this is another one of our key drivers.

Our approach to attendance was praised and called “steadfast” and they could see that the processes we have in place continue to drive forward improvements in this.

It was also noted that the relationships between home and school are “positive and impactful” and as a result our school is a positive place to be for all.

The word “passionate” is used to describe our dedication to expanding the children’s horizons and this is part of our personal development curriculum. They could not believe that we teach careers as a separate subject as well as being ingrained in all of our other learning too and they could see that this helps our children to be “well prepared for their next steps in education **and** life”. This is one of my passions and so I was thrilled that this was recognised. We want the best for our children now and in the future and this was noted. They could see how wonderful our children are, that they “develop strong principles about treating others with respect and providing help for those who need it”. What more can we ask for in our children?

When you come to the end of the report you will see the line that floored me; “Staff describe the school as a ‘family where everyone helps each other’” What more can you ask for in a team?

I am incredibly proud to be the leader of such a wonderful team of staff, passionate and caring parents and most of all of such FANTASTIC children. Thank you!

The school’s safeguarding was found to be effective and this is the most that they can say on a report however the team noted that the school’s culture of safeguarding was exemplary and a strength of our school.



The inspectors found one area to work on. This is that in some subjects our use of assessment is not identifying children's gaps in learning quick enough and so the teaching does not help them close those gaps. This is something that we had already identified in our maths curriculum. For those of you who attended the maths workshops back in September, you will recall that this is why we have changed the way we teach maths. We know that some children need to improve their fluency skills so that they can calculate quicker and more economically. Our new maths scheme is allowing us to do that so we were already actioning this before they came. Win!

Now that the pressure of OFSTED has gone we can continue to be 'a school to be proud of in the heart of our community'.

Our standards are, and will remain, high for every member of that school community. We look forward to building upon the progress that we have made in making our school one of the most special and amazing places to be, every day, for everyone!

So, once more, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Mrs Mills