



2nd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It gives me enormous pleasure to share our Ofsted inspection report with you, which reflects the substantial progress we have made since November 2021. I am extremely proud to inform you that Ashley has moved from Requires Improvement to GOOD in all areas.

Overall Effectiveness: Good

Quality of Education: Good

Behaviour and Attitudes: Good

Personal Development: Good

Leadership and Management: Good

Early Years Provision: Good

The inspection team noted that 'the clarity of leaders' vision had enabled the school to move forward'. Moving from requires improvement to good takes a lot of time and commitment and 'it is evident the leaders have taken the staff with them on the journey'.

The inspection team observed lessons and playtimes, spoke to staff and pupils and interrogated a range of evidence, including attendance data, parent/carer questionnaire responses and children's work. Throughout, our children were polite, confident and welcoming and keen to share their learning with the inspection team; as always, we were very proud of how well the children responded. The inspectors carried out 'Deep Dives' into Early Reading, Mathematics, English, design and technology, computing and history to establish what is 'typical' of our approach to teaching and learning, which enabled them to judge the Quality of Education as Good.

As you will be aware, we have spent time reviewing the curriculum, carefully considering the golden threads and structure, so Ofsted recognising that our curriculum is ambitious, broad and balanced, as well as carefully sequenced, means an enormous amount to us. The inspection team could see how our learning themes fit together from Reception to Year 6, enabling the children to learn in a logical order, build on their learning each year and make links across the

subjects. As a result, our children enjoy their learning, know more and remember more. Children are given work that challenges them. The inspectors recognised that children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities enjoy the full curriculum, and receive effective support. Our assessment system, linked to our knowledge organisers, retrieval activities and planning, is in place and now needs to be embedded so all teaching staff are consistently checking that all children understand.

The inspection team felt that the teaching of phonics, using Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised phonics scheme, was rigorous with fidelity to the scheme enabling our children to be successful. Reading is prioritised, a love of reading is fostered and pupils enjoy reading.

The children relate well to each other, have quality relationships with staff and they know that their adults are here to help. The inclusive culture came across strongly – the children shared ‘all are welcome at Ashley, all are kind, it’s good to be different and no one is left on their own’.

In Reception (Early Years) there is a focus on communication and language; the environments (inside and out) are purposeful and well resourced. The children learn well across the curriculum, including the teaching of early mathematics and reading. The children are taught what they need to know so they are ready to move to Year 1. The staff have high expectations and the children are excited to learn. Social, moral, spiritual and cultural learning is strong.

A full copy of the report is attached or can be found by visiting our school website. The report is extremely positive and reflects the excellent progress we have made since our last inspection.

Finally and most importantly, I would like to thank all our children for being incredible ambassadors for our school; the staff for their hard work and dedication; the parents and carers who either spoke with inspectors/provided feedback online and your ongoing support; the Local Committee members and the GST Central Team for their continued guidance.

Kind Regards

Mrs J Ratcliff

Headteacher