



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed ...
...to be the best 'me' I can be.

11th January 2024

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I can now inform you of the results of our recent Ofsted Inspection which took place on 28th & 29th November 2023.

The inspectors that visited our school carried out their inspection over the two days, which included deep dives into various subjects, lesson visits, discussions with staff/children, meetings with school subject leaders and scrutiny of work undertaken by children. They met with me, Miss Hulme (Assistant Headteacher), class teachers, members of the governing body, spoke with parents, and examined and reviewed documentation provided by the school; more details of which can be found within the report.

The inspectors concluded that Birches First School is **GOOD** in all areas (Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years Provision), resulting in an Overall Effectiveness of **GOOD** for the School which matched the information I gave to Ofsted through a detailed Self Evaluation of the school before their visit.

As the Ofsted framework has changed considerably since the school's last Ofsted inspection in 2012, I consider this an excellent achievement for the school and I am exceptionally proud of all staff and children for their efforts during this inspection, and the ongoing performance of the school. Birches have implemented our own curriculum for all subjects detailing prior knowledge, substantive and disciplinary knowledge and vocabulary to ensure progression across the school.

Inspectors noted that Birches First School '*does many things well, academic standards and expectations are high, good behaviour is the norm and lessons are full of interesting things to do. Leaders and staff make sure pupils feel valued and support them to succeed in many areas of school life. Pupils like school and find a joy in learning.*'

Other highlights include:

- '*Leaders know what is going well and where things could be even better.*'
- '*Leaders and staff keep up with current educational thinking, the impact of this can be seen in the quality of the school's curriculum design, suitably broad and ambitious. This helps pupils to remember key knowledge.*'
- '*The early years classrooms provide the children with a super start to school, purposeful play, constructive talk, and warm encouragement.*'
- '*There is a healthy reading culture, all in all, a lot of reading happens, and most pupils are fluent readers when they move into Key Stage Two.*'
- '*Informed, hard-working leadership and caring teamwork have created a positive school culture.*'

- *'Beyond lessons, clubs, trips, and extra activities support learning and pupils' broader development.'*
- *'If pupils are upset or worried staff always make time for them, school rules are fair and support pupils to stay safe and respect others. Pupils are kind to one another in class and on the playground.'*

It is worth recognising that the report is extremely positive, and the areas of development had already been identified by School Leaders (and a plan in place to improve these areas). This clearly demonstrated to the inspectors the strong leadership of the school, who are committed to implement and review strategies which will deal with the areas raised by the Ofsted inspection (Assessment in foundation subjects and Handwriting/Presentation).

The full report is available for you to view and read by clicking below.

['Birches First School Ofsted Report'](#)

The most important focus for me though, is that we maintain our unwavering commitment to the highest quality of education, care, and opportunity for every child at Birches. You have my word that we will never become complacent, we will relentlessly focus on improvement, learn, and develop, and we will continue to have the highest expectations and ambition for every child at Birches.

As ever, Birches First School has a culture of praise, and I would ask that you share any praise and encouragement with staff as you feel appropriate.

Yours sincerely

S Varricchione

Headteacher