



Furrowfield School

Together We Succeed

Head teacher – Miss H E Scott

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am very pleased to say that we have now received our Ofsted report on the inspection which recently took place at Furrowfield School. This report praises the decisions taken by leaders to move the school forward and the changes which have been made.

The headline judgement is that Furrowfield School continues **to be a GOOD school**.

As an overall summary the introduction to the report is as follows;

'After a period of significant change, leaders have taken effective action to ensure that pupils benefit from a good quality of education. Leaders and a re-energised staff team are working together to ensure that pupils can succeed. Ambition is high for all pupils.'

Within the report there are many positive comments including in the section 'what is it like to attend this school' Ofsted have stated that 'Leaders have improved the school's curriculum to meet the needs of pupils'. They also praised staff stating that 'staff help pupils to work towards their individual targets'. Regarding curriculum, they have found that 'leaders make sure that pupils have regular opportunities to learn about life in modern Britain, how to stay safe and healthy and support pupils to develop healthy lifestyles and to maintain positive mental health.' The Ofsted Inspection Team state that 'relationships between staff and pupils are secure' and that 'most pupils are happy at school'. This is very pleasing to read. In addition, Ofsted found that 'most pupils behave well' and that pupils 'engage with lessons well'. It is positive to read that Ofsted found that pupils say, 'bullying is not an issue' and that 'they know that staff would support them if it was'.

In the section on what the school does well and what does it need to improve Ofsted described Leaders' expectations as high. Ofsted talk about the revisions to the curriculum in a positive manner. We are continuously working on the curriculum to ensure this is of a consistent quality across all areas. Reading has come out very positively with mention of the support students are given and the focused reading lessons. Ofsted say that 'pupils engage with reading well' and pupils who need it 'are taught phonics well'. Ofsted conclude this section of the report with 'leaders have developed a culture of reading in the school'.

Regarding behaviour Ofsted state that 'around school, most pupils behave well'. In addition, they say that 'the school is orderly, and pupils develop good habits for learning'.

Alternative provision is mentioned very positively including the use of vocational support which is mechanics, construction and hairdressing and the use of the Forest School. The inspectors mention that 'staff support pupils' personal development well' which is very pleasing to hear. The inspection team also state that 'Leaders ensure pupils can receive support to help them cope with difficult experiences from the past'.

Ofsted praise the new Governing Body who they say are experienced and who work well with school leaders. Regarding safeguarding Ofsted concluded that safeguarding arrangements are effective. Ofsted state that 'pupils say they feel safe and well supported by adults in school'.

As with all Ofsted reports there is a section on what the school needs to do improve. For Furrowfield we have one action point. This is linked with further curriculum development and focuses on consistent curriculum planning across all curriculum subject areas using assessment to check what pupils have learnt. The report mentions that 'Leaders are mindful of this and are working with staff to further improve provision'.

We are very proud of this report. As you know Furrowfield has gone through significant change, but we are heading in the right direction. The report supports this view. As always, I would like to thank all parents, carers and Governors for their patience and their continued support. Please be rest assured that we will continue to move forward in a determined and proactive way and most importantly we move forward together with 'leaders and a re-energised staff team' working together to ensure that all can succeed.

Please find the full report attached to this email and in hard copy sent to your home address. If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to arrange an appointment to speak with me via the school office on 0191 4954700.

Thank you for supporting our continued improvement,

Yours faithfully
Heather E Scott
Head Teacher