



KWS Ofsted Report

Friday 7th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, we had our latest Ofsted Inspection at the beginning of June. I am pleased to share with you the final report from this inspection. I have attached the report to this letter, and it will also be available on the KWS website. It will be live on the Ofsted website as of Monday, but I have been informed that I can share it with parents as of today.

The report speaks for itself. I could not be more proud of all of our children, the entire staff team, our Governing Body and you our parents. The report is a 500 word summary of the two-day Section 5 Inspection and is a snap shot of what was seen. At the end of the inspection, we were provided with full feedback where I was advised to take notes as a lot of what was seen wouldn't be included in the report because of the word limit. I sat in that final feedback meeting bursting with utter joy and pride for the children, staff, governors and parents listening to the wonderful things they had to say about them all and about what KWS means, what we believe in, what we provide and what we stand for.

This report reflects our wonderful children who make KWS the special place it is. They amazed the Inspection Team who said that *"Out of the hundreds of schools we visit, very rarely do we see behaviour and attitudes like we have seen over the past 2 days here. Behaviour and attitudes have been consistent from all children throughout the entire inspection, and this has been very impressive. It is exceptional."*

The whole staff team always work with such dedication, passion, commitment, enthusiasm, and care and this is irrelevant of Ofsted. However, it was heart-warming to have this acknowledged by the Inspection Team, who said, *"We can see that regardless of Ofsted, your staff team would have put the same amount of hard work and effort into implementing the changes from the previous inspection because we can see that they are a staff who want to do well and who care."* It was noticeable in the final feedback from the inspection that the team mentioned every aspect of staffing within the school and the positive impact they all have and the positive things that were seen in each of these areas – Office, Cleaners, Kitchen, Site Management, Midday Supervisors, Breakfast/After School Club and those within the classroom. Our Governing Body were also a key part of this inspection process and were interviewed by the team. We have such a supportive and dedicated Governing Body, led by our Chair of Governors Mrs Maddison, and they too impressed the Inspection Team with their knowledge of the school, for the role they play and for fulfilling all of their statutory duties with rigour, support and care. I am so grateful to the entire team – a team I value and appreciate in great bundles.

We are incredibly grateful for the responses that the Inspection Team received from the parent survey. The Lead Inspector went through some of the comments and we were really touched. Her comment was *"Parents are overwhelmingly supportive."* We are not naive enough to think that things are perfect. There are always challenges and ups and downs, areas to improve, and areas for us to reflect on. But we know that we have wonderful parents, who support their children's education, who support the school, who come and talk to us if they have concerns, and who work with us and alongside us. Thank you.

A Section 5 Inspection delves into the following areas:

- Quality of Education – this includes Early Reading and Phonics; a selection of 'Deep Dives' and 'Spot Lights' into a selection of subjects; SEND.
- Behaviour and Attitudes
- Personal Development
- EYFS
- Leadership and Management
- Safeguarding

Kirkby Woodhouse School, Main Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. NG17 9EU

Telephone: 01623 486158 Web: www.kirkbywoodhouse.notts.sch.uk Email: office@kirkbywoodhouse.notts.sch.uk

We were not found wanting in any area of the inspection and we were told that we had such a strong evidence base. As a result, we are now judged to be, '[A good school with outstanding features](#)' and it was commented that the '[good](#)' aspect is a '[strong good](#)' because our action points are not significant changes that need to be made or improved. Needless to say we are all thrilled with this judgement. We went into the process wanting to retain our 'good' judgement and for Ofsted to then go and come back in another 4 years. We were however elated to find that we were being judged as a 'strong good' and with 'outstanding features'.

Of course, Ofsted is Ofsted, so inevitably they are going to pick out some aspects for us to work on and develop over the next 4 years, and that is to be expected. The report doesn't mention specific subjects, but the feedback the Inspection Team gave us was to work on developing the following over the next 4 years:

- The RE curriculum to give children a more secure knowledge of different faiths.
We cover the major faiths as part of our RE curriculum, but during some pupil interviews, the Inspection Team said that not all children could talk confidently about the different faiths and their knowledge wasn't always strong in their recall of their prior learning.
- The PSHE curriculum for us to ensure that all children are confident in talking about British Values.
The children spoke with confidence, understanding, enthusiasm and lovely examples about our KWS 'High 5' Values, but the small selection of children they interviewed didn't speak confidently about the British Values.
- The MFL (French) curriculum – to review our French curriculum documents alongside what is taught.
- The EYFS outdoor area – to revamp the area. However, the Inspection team recognised that this was already on our School Development Plan and plans were afoot for this area.

As a staff team, none of these are areas for concern for us. They don't involve any significant change or overhaul, and actually they help inform us of the context for our School Development Plan over the next 4 years. We're more than happy with that.

There is one comment from the feedback from the Inspection Team that will resonate with us for a long time. They said, "*There is a very strong sense of school and this is what you stand for. The Kirkby Woodhouse 'Brand' is unique, strong, personal, and effective.*" As a staff team and Governing Body, we firmly believe and hold dear our ethos and values because that is what makes KWS the school it is. Regardless of Ofsted, we will always be about the profound personal development of each of our children, providing them with a sense of values and morals; providing them with as many opportunities and experiences as we can; providing them with a curriculum that develops their knowledge and understanding; providing them with ambition and inspiration, so that by the time they leave KWS at the end of Y6, they have a real sense of 'Who am I? What can I become? What is possible?' We are really pleased that Ofsted recognised this and commented on it.

So...what's next? Well, onwards and upwards. We will never rest on our laurels. We will continue to move forwards, to develop, to strengthen all that we do and we will do this with our children at the heart. The children are the reason we do what we do and the reason why the staff team stick around at KWS. We will all look forward to a new school year in September when we continue to work our hardest and to do our very best by the children and for the children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. KWS doesn't exist without everyone playing their part in school life, and that includes you, our parents. You, together with the staff team and Governing Body make KWS the place it is, the place of which to be proud and the place for our wonderful children.

That just leaves me to wish you all a lovely weekend.

We have 2 weeks left of this school year, which is hard to believe. There are still many things happening in those last 2 weeks, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the different events that are happening.

Take care

Mrs R Jones
Head Teacher

Kirkby Woodhouse School, Main Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. NG17 9EU

Telephone: 01623 486158 Web: www.kirkbywoodhouse.notts.sch.uk Email: office@kirkbywoodhouse.notts.sch.uk

