



OFSTED Final Report

Dear Families of the Northstead Community,

Following our Ofsted inspection in February of this year, the final report has now been published and can be shared with our community. We would like to share with you some of the further feedback shared by the inspection team during their two-day visit, in recognition of the amazing improvement journey our school has been on since the previous inspection.

In October 2021, our school was graded as **REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT** in all areas.

In February 2024, our school is graded **GOOD** in the three key areas of Early Years, Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes.

Despite the incredible hard work and dedication of our team, we still have some key areas to develop and develop them we will, with gusto, with professionalism and with our belief that we can make Northstead into an even better place to work and to learn for our community. A place where the best you can be means just that, where excellence is the aim and where responsibility shines through in everything we all do.

At the end of July 2022, our school's national test results at the end of KS2, KS1 and the phonics screening check were way below national averages. A first meeting with North Yorkshire school improvement service was, as you can imagine, a bit tricky for myself as the new Headteacher (after being appointed in September 2022).

At the end of July 2023, although still not above the national average in many areas, our school had made significant progress in all areas. Phonics in year one had increased by 36%, EYFS was above the national average and all other national comparisons had improved from the previous year. Our children's resilience and determination was gradually getting stronger. As a community, we could feel our school developing well and we could see and feel significant differences in children's attitudes to learning right across school.

At the end of July 2024, we expect our outcomes to improve yet again. All through the hard work and dedication of our loyal and committed staff, as well as the focused work our families are doing at home to ensure their children have the best chance of success as possible. Not to mention the excellent attitudes our children are showing on a daily basis to be the best that they can be.

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Headteacher: Mr S. Hopper BSc (Hons) NPQH





We have worked incredibly hard to positively enhance our school so that children's behaviour and attitudes to learning are vastly improved, their personal development is strong all while ensuring our school's safeguarding procedures are effective. We have invested heavily in our Early years foundation stage to ensure children get the best possible start to Northstead which will set them up for a successful and happy 7 years with us.

We will continue to invest time and energy to improve our curriculum and its implementation to ensure our children receive the very best education.

Although disheartened that the inspection team did not grade our school as Good overall, the staff team should be very proud of the development they have all been a part of over the past 18 months. Our staff have put their heart and soul into ensuring our school improves, not just for them but for every single child in our school community and for each other. Our school has seen many huge improvements since October 2021.

Some key observations from the inspection - Strengths

- Safeguarding is effective – Pupils feel safe
- Pupils enjoy attending school and are proud to attend our school
- Pupils have positive attitudes to school and to their learning
- Pupils are polite, friendly and eloquent
- Pupils have positive relationships with each other and with staff
- Pupils have a keen sense of fairness, equality and tolerance
- Pupils understand what it means to be a pupil at Northstead
- Pupils develop into fluent readers with a tangible love of reading
- The school has high-quality provision for phonics through EYFS and Key stage one
- Leaders have overseen a significant improvement in behaviour across the school
- Leaders' ambition and expectation for pupils' achievement is high
- In EYFS, adults ensure high-quality provision
- Reading, writing and maths are all well led and managed and leaders have made a significant impact on the development of these core areas across the school
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive appropriate adaptations and support.
- Governors are well-informed and use this information to hold leaders to account

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Areas for development from the inspection

- There are some subject curriculums that require further development - Some of the subject curriculums do not precisely identify the key knowledge that pupils should acquire
- Subject leadership is not secure in some cases. This impacts on the quality of the education that the school provides
- Assessment in some subjects is not used effectively, teaching therefore, does not address gaps in learning. This means that pupils do not achieve as well as they should
- Children do not make sufficient progress to ensure they are ready for the next stage of education
- While leaders have a clear ambition and intent for learning, this is not consistently realised
- Pupils' understanding of different faiths and cultures is inconsistent
- Persistent absence is still too high for some groups of pupils. These pupils miss learning and can struggle to catch up as a result. This leads to disengagement in lessons; hence why I am always writing about attendance on my weekly blog.

So what now?

The Northstead team will continue to do everything we can to ensure our school develops at pace and to ensure every child is the best they can be. Every child will demonstrate our CORE values in their daily life and every child will succeed as they move through school. We will continue to enhance our personal development offer, continue to ensure children receive the best possible start into school and will not sway from the high expectations we have of every child's behaviour and of every child's attitude to learning. We will work tirelessly on improving the curriculum intent and implementation – all to ensure children achieve well and continue to feel proud of being a part of the Northstead Community.

Our school will now have a monitoring visit from His Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) within 18 months of the publication of the report with a full inspection within two and a half years.

I couldn't be any prouder of the development journey our community has been on together over the past 18 months. The staff are an amazing bunch of people to know and to work with; it takes more than staff in school to change a school. I wish to offer my personal thanks to all parents and carers who have contributed so positively to changing our school for the better.

Regards,

Shaun Hopper
Headteacher

Jackie Laybourn
Chair of Governors

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