



'Feeding Minds, Touching Hearts'

Gunthorpe Church of England Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs Claire Bills

Monday 8th November 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

I am delighted to be able to attach a copy of our recent Ofsted report. As you will read Ofsted have confirmed that we remain a good school.

Throughout the inspection process we felt the inspectors were fair in the conversations that they had with staff, pupils and parents. We feel they did gain a clear picture into what life is like for pupils at Gunthorpe. They were very complimentary about the behaviour of all pupils and the high quality of teaching that was observed.

A large focus of Ofsted inspections currently, is to look at the quality of the curriculum, ensuring that every subject within the Primary curriculum is of a high quality. This is of absolute importance to all staff at Gunthorpe. We were delighted that in the 3 subjects that Ofsted choose to deep dive in and fully inspect (which were reading, maths and science) all came out as very strong. In these subjects they observed lessons, spoke to subject leaders and looked through books in addition to speaking to pupils. We were so pleased that the report talks about our ambitious curriculum "that meets the pupil's thirst for knowledge."

The report does identify 3 areas of the curriculum that they believe are not as effective currently- these are French, Design Technology and Music. Being a small school does pose certain challenges when it comes to implementing change and the impact of COVID-19 has meant we haven't been able to implement some of the changes as quickly as we would have liked. We have already invested in new schemes of work and resources to teach all three of these, however the impact of this has not yet fully filtered down to pupils as some of these subjects are only taught every half term – the current half term being the one they appear in. We do not feel the tone of the report captures the fact that in these agreed subjects we have already put into place measures to ensure we do know what pupils learn in these subjects and ensure pupils achievement is not limited. The inspectors did not observe any teaching of DT, French or Music. They did not look at any work produced or speak to subject leaders regarding these areas. We will however, continue to work hard to make sure that standards in these subjects rise to meet the other areas of our curriculum that they were pleased with, something subject leaders would have been monitoring this year anyway.

The inspection also picked up upon how leaders had not yet checked the effectiveness of extra help for pupils with SEND. This was down to the timing of the inspection being early in Autumn 1. Whilst this is an area of improvement we were delighted that the report also commented how this does not impact on how well pupils with SEND achieve, within the report it is noted how "Pupils with special education needs and/or disabilities are fully involved in school life. Teachers adapt the curriculum to meet their needs" .

It particularly pleased me to read of how the inspectors noted how all pupils are keen to learn, leave ready to succeed and that "the school's Christian ethos supports pupil's personal development" I believe that you send your children to our school because you want them to become the best possible version of



themselves. We believe it is of equal importance that they achieve their academic potential in addition to raising their aspirations for what they may achieve. That inspectors believe our school is “friendly, loving and safe” means a lot to me, and I hope, to you as parents. Although not in the report, the inspector commented during the feedback session that he would happily send his own children to Gunthorpe and that he would remember the day fondly, praise indeed!

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete the Ofsted form, write in or speak to inspectors your support was very valuable to us.

Kind regards,

Claire Bills
Head Teacher

Tara Cook
Chair of Governors