



Executive Head Teacher: Alexandra Symondson
'Be inspired, love to learn, endeavour to achieve'

Wednesday 05th December 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware we had our Ofsted section 8, one-day inspection on the 22nd November 2018. I am pleased to say that our inspection letter has now been published. You will find this on our website under the key information tab and then Ofsted.

There is no change to the school's current overall effectiveness grade of good. The inspector, Sarah McGinnis, HMI, identified some priorities for improvement which she is asking the school to address and therefore the school's next inspection will be a full section 5, two-day inspection. We anticipate that this will likely take place before July 2019.

There were some lovely positives and highlights within the inspection that I wish to draw your attention to:

- The interim Executive Headteacher has provided a sense of direction and clear vision for the future and ambition for the school and staff.
- Governors share this ambition.
- The interim Executive Headteacher's plans for the future are well devised and seek to secure the capacity of leaders to sustain improvement in the long term.
- The new Chair of Governors is working hard to ensure the governing body has the expertise and training to support and challenge leaders.
- Governors are committed to the school and visit regularly and meet with leaders.
- The interim Executive Headteacher is well supported by senior leaders, who are refining the skills they need to achieve the priorities that have been identified.
- Staff are supportive and optimistic about the future. They are receptive to developing their skills.
- The school is a vibrant and welcoming environment.
- Pupils are engaged and engaging. They speak enthusiastically about their experience of school. They believe that teachers look after them well and support them to achieve their very best.
- Christian values are evident in the high level of respect and understanding that pupils show towards each other.
- Where teaching is stronger, pupils demonstrate an ability to write with greater fluency. They can use a wide range of adventurous vocabulary, sometimes using literary techniques to add greater depth.
- Additional adults provide support for pupils with SEND and this leads to improvements in the short term.
- Leaders are establishing new ways of working to provide increased challenge for pupils.

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Our next steps for the school are what the governors, assistant headteachers and I have already identified so it was very valuable to have this affirmed. Leaders and those responsible for governors should ensure that:

- They establish and embed more effective assessment systems, so that the progress of pupils can be checked and tracked more accurately.
- Teachers use assessment information to identify misconceptions and plan work that matches the learning needs of all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND
- Leaders' self-evaluation is developed so that there is more rigour in how the impact of actions is determined.
- The most able pupils are routinely challenged to reach the highest standards
- Leaders' skills and expertise are developed so that they have a greater impact on improving standards in their areas of responsibility

As mentioned, our next steps are priorities we as a school had already identified and have been starting to address. By our next inspection we will be striving to ensure that they are more fully embedded and supporting the children's progress to greater effect.

I would like to pass on my thanks to those of you who completed a parent view questionnaire or sent in an email or personal communication to the inspector. A huge thank you must also go to the governors and staff who are working tirelessly to make St. James' and Ebrington a strong educational and pastoral establishment for your children.

Yours sincerely

Alexandra Symondson
Interim Executive Headteacher
St. James' and Ebrington CofE Primary School