



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Ofsted Inspection Outcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following Ofsted's most recent visit to The Ecclesbourne School, their report is now due for publication. I therefore am writing to inform you of the outcome and some background details from the report.

This was Ofsted's first visit since our last inspection in 2022, and was originally intended to be a monitoring visit to view the progress that our school had made. I am delighted to tell you, that the inspectors took the relatively unusual step of converting their first monitoring visit into a full graded inspection in recognition of the "rapid and sustained progress" the school has achieved since the previous inspection. As a result, inspectors have now determined that we are a *Good* school.

This is a milestone moment for us. The fact that we are now in a position where nearly every aspect of our school has been praised, and the Inadequate grading has been removed at the very first opportunity, is testament to the dedication and efforts of so many people in our community.

That is why, before I expand on what the inspection team found, I simply want to say thank you. Inspectors identified a number of issues in their May 2022 inspection, as well as some we didn't wholly agree with, and we ensured that we listened, and we acted. The support we have received from our community has been an instrumental part of this, and has been the catalyst for the progress we have made.

At the conclusion of three days of inspection, the inspectors found the school to be *Good* for Quality of Education, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Sixth Form Provision, and *Requiring Improvement* for Behaviour and Attitudes.

The report praises the school for its "high academic ambitions for all pupils" and how "pupils value the education they receive", noting that pupils "benefit from the high-quality education that the school is providing."

The report praises classroom practice and says that "behaviour around the school is calm and orderly." The report says "pupils speak with enthusiasm about what they learn" and inspectors recognised that our "pupils perform well in national tests" at GCSE and A Level.

The report also acknowledges the work that has gone into supporting students to feel secure and welcome, stating that "pupils feel safe at this school" and that "the school promotes inclusivity and develops pupils to be upstanders and not bystanders."

The school's Sixth Form provision was also praised, with the report highlighting how students "benefit from teachers who are experts in their field".

Other positive comments from the report included:

- The curriculum is broad and ambitious for all pupils at this school.
- Leaders have used their expertise to organise the curriculum logically so that it helps pupils develop a depth of understanding. They have thought carefully about the choice of content and resources.
- Teachers have strong subject knowledge. They use this effectively to help most pupils achieve well.



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- The school is ambitious for pupils with SEND. There are very effective systems and processes to identify and assess the needs of pupils with SEND. The support the school gives to pupils with more profound needs is a strength.
- There is a whole school strategy to develop a more inclusive culture. Leaders have trained staff in using protocols and policies which allow the school to handle cases of bullying and derogatory language.
- The wider curriculum prepares all pupils and students for the world of work and their future next steps.
- Careers education is a strength at this school.
- All leaders are taking sustainable action to improve aspects of the school.

As you will see from the report available [here](#), the overall conclusions the inspection team made are very positive, and the findings mirror all of the other external validation the school has sought as part of our journey.

That being said, it is also important that we acknowledge that there is always more for us to do. We are working tirelessly to fully embed our new behaviour policy to help us build on the inclusive culture we are developing. Our work is not complete in that area, and we will continue to drive improvements to ensure continued improvement.

Although the immediate pressures of Ofsted have been removed, we will not reduce our determination to ensure that every child can thrive. We are, for example, particularly excited about the significant investments we are looking to make to improve the environment in which our students learn.

Our standards are, and will remain, high for every member of the school community. We look forward to building upon the progress to date in making our school a welcoming and inclusive centre for excellence and academic achievement.

So, once more, thank you. At the heart of every positive in this report is the strength of our community. The fact that so much has been achieved in a relatively short period of time is a true team effort.

As always, if there is anything that you would like to discuss, then our doors are always open.

Yours sincerely

James McNamara
Head Teacher