

Friday, 8th November, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now able to share the report that Ofsted have produced, following their 2-day inspection of Bewdley Primary School at the start of October. There is no longer an overall grade given to a school but, instead, five sub-categories. As you'll read, three areas were deemed to be 'Good' and two 'Require Improvement'.

I've found it incredibly tricky to write objectively about our recent Ofsted inspection. However, I will say that I do not believe that the report reflects the spirit, ethos and values that you, as parents, know makes BPS a good school.

It's particularly difficult to read the judgement that The Quality of Education in our school 'Requires Improvement'. Of the many lessons and teachers that were observed, the vast majority were viewed positively. However, because of a **very** small minority of moments, in less than 5% of the lessons observed, the inspectors have made generalised sweeping statements regarding the teaching, learning and curriculum throughout the school.

As a school, we are not wary of change and we are very aware that our maths curriculum is not working as well as we'd like it to for all children. Those of you who attended the Parents' Information Evening in September already know that our main focus for this year is improving the impact and implementation of our maths curriculum. The inspectors acknowledged that everything that is already on our agenda for maths is the right direction for the school to be heading in. However, as we were unable to show the impact of these plans, the inspectors judged that this was not good enough. It is frustrating that this judgement was made less than four weeks into the new school year, before we've had the chance to demonstrate the positive changes we are confident will follow.

Because it was declared that the Quality of Education requires improvement, we were informed that Leadership and Management must therefore receive the same judgement. It's tricky to defend this without it sounding like 'sour grapes' but, as you'll see from the report, the evidence for this is tenuous at best. We have formally made our thoughts on the inspection and its outcomes known to Ofsted.

As you can imagine, the school will now be under further scrutiny from the local authority and we welcome any additional support aimed at improving outcomes for our children. However, in terms of the children's day to day lives in school, there won't be any major disruptions and changes – only improvements, the details of which we'll share with our parents and carers along the way. If you would like to know more about our plans moving forward, I'll be holding a meeting for parents, which includes a question and answer session, on Monday 18th November at 6pm. Please submit any questions that you may have to [head@bewdleyprimary.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@bewdleyprimary.worcs.sch.uk) in advance of the meeting.

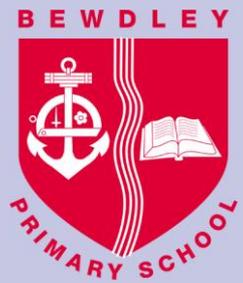
Questionnaires and feedback from pupils, parents and staff were all overwhelmingly positive. Whilst we can't ignore the judgements made and the impact that it will now have on our school, I strongly believe that our community knows this school's strengths in a way that a 2-day inspection can't possibly begin to emulate.

I think I speak for all staff by saying that the inspection, this report and its judgements have hit us hard. However, everyone here wants the best for our children and we're never going to shy away from anything that improves their education. After all, that's why they come to school!

Thanks to the tenacity, diligence and commitment of all our stakeholders, I have absolutely no doubt that when the inspectors return, whenever that may be, we will be more than ready to demonstrate that Bewdley Primary is a good school in every aspect.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued support.

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*Amanda Bradley*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are likely aware, Ofsted visited Bewdley Primary School on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The inspectors praised many specific things, including the broader curriculum and strength of the BPS community. There is no longer a headline grading but the inspectors judged that in some elements, the 'Quality of Education' was 'Requires Improvement'. This, in turn, meant that 'Leadership and Management' must also require improvement, including that governors, "Do not hold leaders to account well enough for the quality of education that pupils receive."

We respect the inspectors' judgment, however I will not deny that I'm frustrated by some of the detail. Governors hold a purely strategic role in schools and while we do look from an oversight perspective, we can only act relatively indirectly. We scrutinise data – much of which has been significantly confused by Covid and missed national assessments. We discuss and appropriately challenge plans for teaching and learning that take place underneath those numbers in governing body meetings. Every decision takes time to implement and have an impact but we monitor and challenge as a "critical friend" to the teaching and leadership staff in school. There is a clear line that we are not allowed to cross though in terms of taking direct action ourselves so no matter how much we hold leaders to account, we are bound by operational constraints.

I think it's important to look forwards rather than backwards though and what matters ultimately is the children. I know Miss Bradley and the leadership team have worked hard on an action plan for the 'Quality of Education' at BPS. As a governing body, we have a meeting scheduled for next week where we will develop our own action plan. That will likely include specific training to ensure that we are best equipped to hold leaders to account for the quality of education and designation of individual governors to specific additional oversight roles. I have always felt that we as a governing body strike a good balance between challenge and support for staff but if we can do better then we should humbly strive for that.

Yours sincerely,



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Chair of Governors  
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