



# Race Leys Infant School

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**Co-Headteachers: Mrs L Duncan & Mrs J Langtree**

Dear parents/carers,

As most of you will know, we received a scheduled visit from OFSTED on 3rd and 4th July. The full report will be published on the OFSTED website within the coming days. We would like to share the outcome with our families.

The grades that can be awarded are Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. In 2018, the school had been judged as 'Good'. However, in this recent inspection the school has been judged, overall, as 'Requires Improvement'.

Whilst this outcome is disappointing, we wanted to share with you the many positives that have been recognised within the report and our plans to strive towards returning to a 'Good' grading.

Ofsted recognised in the report that there are elements of 'Good' within the school, with two categories out of the five being graded as 'Good'. The area of Personal Development was graded as 'Good' which reflects the positive offer afforded to all of our children including the *"well sequenced and coherent curriculum"* and the *"many opportunities for pupils to develop their skills and talents."* The Early Years Provision was also graded as 'Good', with Ofsted recognising *"Children in the Early Years get off to a good start"* and that *"the calm environment that allows adults to deepen the children's understanding through positive interactions"*.

Other positive comments included:

Ofsted said, *"There is a strong commitment to supporting pupils' emotional needs and relationships between staff and pupils are positive."*

Ofsted also recognised that, *"Leaders prioritise early reading. Staff teach phonics well"* and *"Leaders and staff also prioritise promoting a love of reading."*

Ofsted said, *"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective... The pastoral team know their families extremely well. They have extensive knowledge. This makes them well placed to support pupils and families effectively and enables them to deal with the most complex of cases"*.

The report rightly recognises that we took over the school after *"a period of Leadership turbulence"* with much to do. We have been working tirelessly in ensuring school improvement over the last year and we hope that you have seen the impact of this so far.

Whilst we are pleased that the report recognises some of our key strengths, inspectors also highlighted a number of key areas that require improvement.

These include:

- The curriculum plans need to be further adapted to meet the needs of the pupils, particularly those with SEND.
- Leaders, including subject leaders, to closely monitor the delivery of the curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils.
- Leaders to ensure there is a clear and concise behaviour policy that consistently applied to allow pupils to be engaged with their learning and behave appropriately during less structured times.
- Leaders in school to sharply focus their plans and clearly identify the actions they will take that will make the biggest difference to the quality of education for every pupil.

We feel disappointed that over the two-day inspection, the inspectors did not recognise the high level of additional need across the school. We would like to share with you that the Local Authority have since written a letter of support to Ofsted, outlining how positively and collaboratively Race Leys Infant School works to deliver SEND provision.

It is obviously very disappointing for all members of staff and the Governing Body that the outcome of the inspection has found that the school 'Requires Improvement' and will undoubtedly be very disappointing for you as parents also. To a certain extent, the outcome of the inspection was not a surprise given the turbulent and unsettled years the school has experienced since the Covid Pandemic and the changes of leadership. We would like to reassure you that we are committed to the children and community of Race Leys Infant School. We know we have much to do on our school improvement journey and we ask that you put your trust in us to continue to develop the school, not just to achieve a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted grade, but to provide the best education and experiences for your child.

We have taken up the role of Co-Headteachers from this September and will continue to work with determination, together with the support of our Governors, to improve the school. The staff and Governors at Race Leys Infant School are a wonderful team who are all committed to working strategically and collaboratively to drive our vision of "Learning together we can reach for the stars!" We continue to strive to achieve this in all that we do with high aspirations for all of our Race Leys Infant Family.

We recognise the important role that you as parents will have in this journey and would like to give you the opportunity to discuss concerns you may have regarding the Ofsted report and the progress that we are already making in improving the school. We would like to invite you to an open parents' meeting at school on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023. We would like to hold two sessions to speak with parents at 9am and 5:30pm.

With the publication of the report, now is the time to look forward and we hope that you as parents will continue to support us with maintaining our strong reputation in our local community.

Kindest regards

Mrs Jen Langtree and Mrs Louise Duncan  
Co-Headteachers

Miss Claire Davies  
Chair of Governors