



Good school: pupils at Trinity primary behave well and feel "safe" and "highly valued", said inspectors. Inset, new headteacher Charlotte Whittle

School rated good as new head revamps curriculum

SCHOOL in Henley has been rated "good" by Ofsted.

Trinity Primary School in Vicarage Road was previously rated "outstanding" by the education watchdog following an inspection in 2016 and again in 2022 with an ungraded inspection.

Its latest inspection took place in December, three months after the arrival of new headteacher Charlotte Whittle.

Inspectors noted that the school is "happy, inclusive and nurturing" and that pupils behaved well and everyone felt "safe" and "highly valued".

Its particular strength was its pastoral care. The inspectors said: "From the nurture breakfast to therapeutic sessions at lunchtime, help is always there when pupils need it."

"Pupils speak fondly of the support they receive from the school counsellor and emotional literacy staff. Parents say that the school is 'above and beyond' to help their children."

On the quality of education, the inspectors said: "Pupils achieve highly across reading, writing and mathematics. Some wider subjects are less well developed but leaders have identified the required actions to build success for all."

"Pupils are proud of their leadership roles, such as play leader, prefect, reading champion and head student."

"Pupils show care towards their environment and those around them. Through the parable of the Good Samaritan, pupils are taught to care for their neighbour, even

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when there are differences. Diversity in books and regular celebrations such as a 'languages day' enrich pupils' world knowledge.

"A wide range of club opportunities offer something for everyone, including choir, cookery, football and French. Leaders ensure that disadvantaged pupils are strongly represented, so nobody misses out."

Provisions for students with special educational needs and disabilities were highlighted. The school's approach to reading was described as "inspirational" to pupils and inclusive of SEND children.

The Ofsted report said parents spoke highly of the work to help pupils with SEND and tasks and resources were adapted with timely feedback given by teachers to pupils helping them address misconceptions.

However, it said this approach was not always consistent and warned: "When feedback given to pupils does not identify knowledge gaps accurately, pupils may not secure their learning over time."

Other strengths noted by inspectors included the school's priority of personal development through initiatives like community work and the promotion of role models, learning behaviour, support for staff and help for disadvantaged families.

The leadership team was praised for driving curriculum improvement at a "rapid" pace. Inspectors

commended mathematics and physical education teaching but said learning was less successful in recently revised subjects such as history and art and design.

Their report concluded: "Governors bring a wealth of experience and expertise to their role. Statutory duties are fulfilled with diligence. Leaders have inspired impressive developments in their first term."

"Staff feel highly supported, which has enhanced staff morale and wellbeing. Leaders and governors are insightful and reflective, sharply identifying how to promote further improvements."

"As a result, pupils thrive in this ambitious, caring and successful school."

Mrs Whittle, who was formerly headteacher of Stoke Row Primary School, called the report a "fair and balanced judgement" that was in line with the school's own evaluation.

In a letter to parents, she pointed out that the inspection framework had changed since 2016 and the stricter rules meant only 10 to 15 per cent of previously "outstanding" schools had maintained that rating.

She said: "I am really delighted that we got 'good' and the new framework is very challenging, so we are really happy with the outcomes and we were particularly happy with the things it really highlighted, like the fact that they said pastoral care is a strength because that's something that really matters to us here."

"It was a fair reflection of where we are as a school and our self-valuation that we are a good school. We

obviously aspire to be outstanding again one day."

Mrs Whittle said she had introduced a new curriculum, called Dimensions: Learning means the World, which was a more "holistic" approach that combined subjects and learning.

She said: "I had to focus on Ofsted quite a lot when I first got here. We knew the school had had an ungraded inspection in October 2022 and it was indicated the inspection grade may change."

"I'd been here 12 weeks before they came. In that time, we implemented a new curriculum. It's a very thematic and creative approach to teaching."

"Obviously a new curriculum takes time to embed but I feel like the children are really positive about it. They're really enjoying their learning and for lots of them it's their favourite bit in their day."

"Seeing the outcomes of what they've been doing has been great. But it is challenging because it's all new topics for the teachers because it's an integrated approach."

"The curriculum needed refreshing in order to bring it up to the standards that now Ofsted looks at and that are expected."

"[The inspectors] could see that all the intention was there to create a really strong curriculum."

Mrs Whittle added: "We were able to show Trinity at its best and our children were amazing. They really did us proud and were really proud to show the inspectors what they liked about the school and really positive about their learning."

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