



Headteacher:  
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# The Willows Primary School

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## OFSTED REPORT

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We are delighted to share with you the exceptionally positive report from our recent Ofsted inspection. The findings confirm what we see every day: our children flourish in a school where they are valued, inspired, and truly known as individuals. We are very proud that the school's practice was recognised at the **Strong Standard for Inclusion, Achievement, Curriculum & Teaching, EYFS, Personal development and Wellbeing and Leadership & Governance.**

The report speaks powerfully about the school's commitment to inclusion. It states plainly that *"being inclusive is what this school is all about."* Leaders identify needs early, adapt teaching carefully, and work closely with families to break down barriers for pupils facing challenges. This means that pupils with SEND and all those who need additional support benefit from thoughtful, responsive provision and can access the full curriculum alongside their peers.

Inspectors recognised that the curriculum is *"meticulously sequenced"* from Nursery through to Year 6, enabling pupils to build secure knowledge across subjects. Teachers are skilled in explaining new ideas, checking understanding and addressing misconceptions quickly. Early reading is taught *"effectively,"* giving children the foundations they need to become fluent, confident readers. Across all subjects, pupils develop and use vocabulary with increasing sophistication, and consistently high-quality work was noted throughout the school.

Early Years provision was also celebrated for its high quality. Inspectors described warm relationships, established routines and emotionally secure children who are happy and curious learners. Every room is *"language-rich,"* and time is dedicated to fostering early reading, vocabulary and communication skills. The carefully planned curriculum ensures children receive the best possible start to their learning journey.

Personal development is another area of strength. Children develop a strong moral compass, learn about equality and diversity, and understand what it means to be responsible citizens. Many take up leadership roles—such as librarians, sports leaders and school councillors—which bring democracy and responsibility to life. Inspectors noted that pupils feel the school helps them become *"better people."*

Leadership and governance were highly commended. Inspectors identified that the guiding principle that *"children are seen, heard and held in mind all of the time"* was evident in every leadership decision made. Governors provide robust support and challenge ensuring that high standards continue to be maintained and strengthened.

The school was recognised at the Expected Standard for Attendance and Behaviour.

The report makes clear that behaviour at The Willows is a significant strength. Inspectors found that *"pupils behave very well at work and play"* and highlighted the deeply embedded

culture of high expectations shaped by our school values. Staff nurture warm, respectful relationships with pupils ensuring that any concerns are dealt with swiftly and sensitively. As a result, children conduct themselves with maturity, resilience and kindness, and classrooms are calm, focused and full of purposeful learning.

Throughout the day, children are encouraged to live by our values, which inspire them to *“have a go, not give up and always try to be the best version of themselves.”* Social times are described as *“enjoyable and harmonious,”* and it was noted that *“bullying is a very rare occurrence,”* reflecting the strength of relationships and the importance placed on respect and kindness. Pupils feel safe, well cared for, and confident that staff will support them with any worries, while older pupils speak proudly of the life skills and readiness they gain as they prepare for secondary school.

Using the current attendance data for all pupils, Ofsted decided that pupil attendance was not as strong as behaviour and ultimately this meant that The Willows gained the expected standard rather than strong standard in this area. Inspectors acknowledged that the decision about attendance affected the overall judgement about behaviour. Ofsted has tasked the school in ensuring that attendance continues to improve as despite our best efforts, attendance, for some pupils, is still not high enough. We know that, as parents, you will want to work with us to ensure that this happens.

Safeguarding was recognised as a real strength, with inspectors confirming that the standards are fully met. They praised the open and positive culture in which safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and noted that leaders ensure concerns are *“actively identified, acted upon and managed,”* meaning pupils feel safe and supported. This strong safeguarding culture underpins all aspects of school life.

**The overall findings reflect what we already know about the school - children thrive academically, socially and emotionally. The Willows continues to be a place where pupils achieve well, behave exceptionally well, and grow into confident, compassionate young people. We are incredibly proud of our children, our staff and our whole school community.**

As governors, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Miss MacArthur, Mr Jezzard, the wider leaders and staff for the remarkable work they do each day. Their unwavering commitment to our pupils shines through in every classroom and every interaction. Their dedication, professionalism and genuine love for helping children thrive make an extraordinary difference, and we are deeply grateful for all that they do and, as governors, are extremely pleased that this was reflected in the Ofsted report.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we create a school where every child thrives.



**Kate Parietti**  
**Chair of Governors**