



Soudley School  
Church Road  
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Dear Parents and Carers

26.06.23

Back in February, we welcomed Ofsted inspectors to the school, so please find the final report attached. We are pleased that the report reflects the school's evaluations of four months ago. The overall 'requires improvement' grade is a fair reflection due to the school being on a journey of improvement, as we have indicated a number of times.

There are many positive comments including:

- Pupils enjoy school. They put into practice the values of Soudley School, such as respect and tolerance
- Pupils say that bullying is rare. They are confident that adults would address any incidents quickly.
- The curriculum pupils are following is improving
- Pupils feel safe in school
- Relationships between adults and pupils are strong
- Leaders ensure pupils receive a high standard of pastoral care
- Pupils are beginning to engage more with the local community and wider world.
- The new executive leaders have accurately evaluated the school's strengths and areas of weakness. Their actions are bringing about improvements in the quality of education pupils are receiving
- Pupils now follow a broad curriculum
- Pupils are keen to read the range of new and diverse books
- Pupils enjoy reading and listening and listening to their teachers read to them
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive appropriate support in lessons
- Pupil conduct themselves positively around the school. They play and co-operate well at playtimes
- Staff are appreciative of leaders' support for their workload and wellbeing
- Leaders have created a culture of vigilance to help everyone keep pupils safe
- Where appropriate, leaders engage with outside agencies to support pupils and their families.
- Pupils know how to stay safe in the outside world and when online

Ours school development plan continue to focus on phonics, long term curriculum design, learning behaviours and early years:



**Phonics:**

Read Write Inc has been replaced by Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS). Whilst Read Write Inc is a well-known programme, it relies on multiple adults working with small groups and is well-suited to larger schools. It does not work if one person is absent and groups combine, which is why it has not worked as effectively at Soudley. ELS has a different teaching approach and is very effective. We are aware that FOSS have purchased some RWInc books recently; please be assured that these books will still be used to consolidate sounds and will very much benefit the children. Staff have been working hard on the ELS training modules and we secured external grant funding to ensure this programme is well resourced.

**Long term curriculum design:**

Some aspects of the new curriculum plan started in January as we staggered subject implementation, for example Science and Geography which were judged favourably in February. This approach has been rolled out to other subjects and monitored by subject leaders from across the three schools.

At the time of inspection, the wider group of leaders (Governors and subject leaders) were yet to monitor January's new curriculum. Monitoring since then, including with our external school improvement advisor and the Local Authority, has affirmed much progress.

Subject leaders' judgments have been triangulated by executive leaders and an external improvement advisor. Information on our curriculum is on the website if you would like to find out more. The curriculum expectations are now in line with Steam Mills and Woodside, both of which have been judged by Ofsted to be good.

**Early Years:**

Continuing with the pre-school provision has been challenging due to staffing, and key staff had been in place for about three weeks before the inspection happened. The provision has settled well into new routines. As we have secured a small grant, the children have enjoyed exploring a range of new resources, child-led and adult-led activities. A GCC Early Years quality and inclusion visit took place in late April and this was very positive about the provision. Transition into Rising Five activities and into Reception in September is being further supported by an EYFS consultant later in June. We are pleased that 11 children will be joining us in Reception in September. Pre-school will close as planned; we cannot accommodate that as well due to space.

**Learning behaviours:**

With everyone's high expectations and guidance, learning behaviours (listening, concentrating etc) are developing well. The terminology of 'low level disruption' does not mean that behaviour in classes is poor as that would be contradictory to the positive behaviour comments above. It means that some of our children need extra help to overtly develop good listening skills and learning attitudes. Please ask your child about 'No Tooting' and 'LFT' as these have been introduced to all and especially to further support some of our younger learners as they go up through the school.

**Next steps?**

We continue on our journey! Key to this journey is the partnership with Steam Mills and Woodside. Without this support; the sharing of learning resources from our partner schools and the support of our local authority, the results of the inspection would not have been as favourable.

The inspection confirmed that everyone's best efforts were already focussed on the key areas, for the benefit of our children.



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Thank you to those of you who interacted with the inspection team, either through the Ofsted Parent View portal or in the schoolyard. The children's views and experience, and your views as parents and carers, were a valuable part of the assessment.

Thank you to all staff for maintaining and enhancing Soudley's ethos and improving the curriculum, enabling such positivity amongst a period of significant change.

If you have any queries about what the above means for your child, please contact us and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Davis Executive Headteacher  
Mr Jones Chair of Governors

