

Inspection of Millgate School

18a Scott Street, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE2 6DW

Inspection dates: 10–11 December 2019

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils' learning, safety and welfare are at the heart of Millgate School. Pupils know what 'transforming lives and inspiring futures' means for them. They rise to the challenges set for them, producing high-quality work. They know extra help is on hand when they need it. Pupils are proud of their achievements.

Pupils are exceptionally polite and respectful to each other and to staff. They understand the importance of behaving well and move around the school in a calm way. Pupils who find it hard to manage their feelings get highly effective support. Pupils know they must be honest and trustworthy to become 'Millgate men.'

Pupils thrive in the nurturing culture that staff have created. They know that adults will help them if they have a worry or concern. As one pupil summed it up, 'Staff really care about us here.' Pupils understand that there are different kinds of bullying. They say that bullying is rare in their school. They explain that teachers deal quickly with any pupils who are unkind to others 'and won't have bullying here.'

All pupils take part in exciting clubs, trips and residential activities. These experiences enrich their learning and widen their horizons.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Leaders are ambitious in their determination to prepare pupils for life and work as independent adults. Many pupils come into school following negative experiences. They settle very well. They enjoy lessons and understand that they can be successful if they work hard. Teachers have high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Pupils enjoy the demanding work and do their very best.

The school's curriculum is exceptional. Teachers have strong subject knowledge. They assess pupils' learning and plan work that builds on what pupils know and can do. Skilful teaching helps pupils to remember the most important information they have learned. Pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, keep on improving and learning even more.

Staff believe in the importance of reading for pleasure and for information. Pupils enjoy the daily 'everybody stop and read' routine. Many choose books from the list of '20 books you should read before you leave Millgate'. Pupils perform in drama activities related to the books they read. They make films and present at their own school 'Oscars' ceremony. Pupils develop a love of reading and the skills they need to be successful across all subjects

The physical education (PE) curriculum is extremely well planned. Staff are ambitious for what pupils can achieve as individuals and as part of a team. Pupils use their mathematical skills exceptionally well across all subjects. For example, they demonstrate good understanding of measuring in their food lessons.

This deepens pupils' understanding. Pupils' work in English, art, music, and food technology lessons is of a high quality. Examples of their art work, which are on display, are of a very high standard. They take great care and are proud of their achievements.

Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) helps pupils develop high levels of confidence, self-esteem and independent thinking. The way the school develops pupils' characters is exceptional. Pupils have excellent attitudes and learn from their mistakes. They develop clear knowledge of British values.

Staff help pupils make choices about their futures. Pupils gain the qualifications they need for their next steps. These include a range of GCSE qualifications. Pupils receive support in considering their careers. Leaders have developed strong links with local employers, such as the construction industry, and colleges. This means pupils begin to experience the world of work and prepare for college courses.

Leaders monitor workload pressures. They support staff's well-being effectively. Teachers place great value on the training they receive.

Governors are highly knowledgeable. They challenge and support leaders effectively. Leaders and governors have brought about consistent improvements across the school.

Parents and carers appreciate the support they receive from all staff including the family support workers. Parents say that 'staff go above and beyond'.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is a very strong culture of safeguarding. Leaders make sure that all safeguarding checks are carried out efficiently and in a timely manner. Staff are trained well and kept up to date with the latest information about how to keep pupils safe. Staff demonstrate excellent awareness of safeguarding around the school. All staff are vigilant about keeping pupils safe, including when they are online. Staff know what to do if they have a concern about a pupil.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use Ofsted Parent View information when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you're not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	120362
Local authority	Leicester
Inspection number	10110163
Type of school	Special
School category	Community special
Age range of pupils	7 to 16
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	102
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Pauline Bates
Executive Headteacher	Chris Bruce
Director of school	Mark Oldman
Head of school	Sara Marsh
Website	www.millgateschool.co.uk
Date of previous inspection	25-26 February 2015

Information about this school

- Millgate is a special school catering for pupils aged 7-16 years who have social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Many pupils have additional needs which include those associated with language and communication. All pupils have an education, health and care plan.
- The school sometimes uses three alternative providers for functional skills, construction and mechanics courses. These are Enstruct, Si Sports and Accelerate.

Information about this inspection

We carried out this inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- Inspectors held meetings with the director of schools and head of school, senior leaders, subject leaders and other staff. An inspector spoke to members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. Discussions explored a wide range of aspects of the school, including safeguarding arrangements.
- In considering the quality of education, inspectors looked in detail at four subjects. These were reading, mathematics, PE and PSHE. All lessons were visited jointly with school leaders. Inspectors met with teachers, curriculum leaders and pupils. Inspectors looked at a sample of pupils' work in these subjects. Inspectors visited lessons and looked at work in other subjects.
- Inspectors scrutinised a range of documents. These included those relating to safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, the curriculum and plans for improvement.
- Inspectors spoke with parents. They took account of the responses to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View, and the responses to the staff survey. There were no responses to the pupil questionnaire.

Inspection team

Lynda Morgan, lead inspector	Ofsted Inspector
Caroline Oliver	Ofsted Inspector

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