

Inspection of a good school: South Kilworth Church of England Primary School

Walcote Road, South Kilworth, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 6EG

Inspection dates:

28 January 2020

Outcome

South Kilworth Church of England Primary School continues to be a good school.

However, inspectors have some concerns that standards may be declining, as set out below.

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils are polite, friendly and confident. They enjoy coming to school and behave well throughout the day. Pupils say there is little bullying. They are confident that adults deal with instances of bullying or poor behaviour.

Pupils feel safe. Staff take good care of them. Parents and carers agree. Pupils play together happily. They enjoy the well-equipped outdoor areas including the woodland trail and climbing wall. They appreciate the responsibility of becoming school councillors. They are proud to attend the school.

Parents say that staff go 'above and beyond' to help their children. Parents state that the school is friendly and has a strong family ethos.

Pupils do not achieve as well as they should. The curriculum is not ambitious enough. Leaders do not have clear plans of what pupils should learn in each year.

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

Phonics and early reading are taught effectively. Staff are well trained and understand how pupils gain phonics knowledge. Children in the Reception class make a flying start with reading. As children start to learn sounds, teachers get them reading quickly. Teachers and teaching assistants regularly check pupils' understanding. They help those who fall behind to catch up. Teachers choose books that match the sounds pupils are learning. Pupils enjoy listening to teachers read and can remember the stories well. Pupils enjoy reading.

Leaders have not planned the key stage 2 reading curriculum in enough detail. Sometimes, reading tasks are not demanding enough for some pupils. Some pupils do not achieve as well as they should.

The science curriculum is not planned well. It is unclear what pupils should know by the end of each year. Guidance for the teaching of mixed year groups is vague. Leaders have not given enough thought to what pupils should learn and when. For example, leaders have not planned what pupils need to know before and after a visit to a Sea Life Centre.

The mathematics curriculum does not make it clear what pupils should know by key points in the year. Some pupils do not know and remember as much as they should. Some pupils do not behave well when they are not challenged by their work. Teachers use a range of resources to help pupils understand important mathematical ideas.

The school offers many opportunities for pupils to become well-rounded individuals. They respect people who have different beliefs or backgrounds to their own. They say this is important and that, 'You can't judge a book by its cover.' Pupils are being prepared well for life in modern Britain. Staff encourage pupils to broaden their horizons and to have high aspirations.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are not supported well. Teachers do not receive clear guidance about pupils' specific needs. Pupils with SEND do not achieve as well as they should.

Members of the governing body know that the school's curriculum is not well designed. They recognise that school leaders have kept the school stable during recent staffing difficulties. The trust has improved the quality of support offered to the school recently. However, this support has been inconsistent.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff care about the pupils. They have had appropriate safeguarding training. Staff know what to do if they have a concern about a pupil. Staff can spot the potential signs of neglect or abuse. They follow the school's policy for managing safeguarding concerns. Staff know what to do if they think a pupil may be at immediate risk of harm. Parents are confident that the school keeps pupils safe. The pupils say that they feel safe.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Leaders have not ensured that the curriculum is well planned and sequenced. Leaders have not yet identified the most important content that they want pupils to learn in each subject. Leaders should ensure that the curriculum plans identify the order in which pupils should learn knowledge and skills.

- Leaders do not provide sufficient guidance for teachers to support pupils with SEND. Teachers do not always plan well for these pupils. Leaders should ensure that teachers know how to support pupils with SEND well. They should ensure that teachers provide effective support to pupils with SEND so that they achieve well.
- Those responsible for governance should ensure that leaders design a curriculum that is well planned and sequenced. They should ensure that leaders have the capacity and resources to manage and lead these improvements.

Background

When we have judged a school to be good we will then normally go into the school about once every four years to confirm that the school remains good. This is called a section 8 inspection of a good school. We do not give graded judgements on a section 8 inspection. However, if we find some evidence that the school could now be better than good or that standards may be declining, then the next inspection will be a section 5 inspection. Usually this is within one to two years of the date of the section 8 inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will convert the section 8 inspection to a section 5 inspection immediately.

This is the first section 8 inspection since we judged the predecessor school, South Kilworth Church of England Primary School, to be good on 29 October 2014.

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 are the school and you are 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	144117
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	10121243
Type of school	Primary
School category	Academy converter
Age range of pupils	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	73
Appropriate authority	Board of trustees
Chair of trust	Mr Stephen Adshead
Headteacher	Mr Ralph Wood
Website	www.southkilworthprimaryschool.com
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected under section 5 of the Education Act 2006

Information about this school

- South Kilworth Church of England Primary School converted to become an academy school on 6 April 2016. When its predecessor school, South Kilworth Church of England School, was last inspected by Ofsted, it was judged to be good overall.
- The school is part of the Diocese of Leicester Academies Trust.
- The headteacher works at the school for three days a week.

Information about this inspection

- We held meetings with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, and other staff. We met with members of the board of trustees and local governing body. Discussions explored a wide range of subjects, including safeguarding arrangements.
- We did deep dives in these subjects: reading, science and mathematics. We visited lessons with leaders. We met with teachers, curriculum leaders and pupils, listened to pupils read and looked at samples of pupils' work.
- We spoke with parents. Account was taken of the 45 responses to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View, and three letters from parents.

- We scrutinised a range of documents. These included those relating to safeguarding, behaviour and attendance. We looked at plans for improvement as well as leaders' evaluation of the school's performance. We also considered the information on the school's website.

Inspection team

Clive Worrall, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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