

Inspection of Tweedmouth West First School

Osborne Road, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2HS

Inspection dates: 11–12 February 2020

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Early years provision **Good**

Previous inspection grade Good

What is it like to attend this school?

This is a happy, caring school where pupils thrive. Staff go the extra mile to make sure that they understand the needs of each pupil.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive strong support which allows them to make the most of the opportunities on offer. Many parents and carers who made their views known to us agree. For example, one parent said: 'The staff here have gone above and beyond to help my child. I'll never stop praising this school.'

Pupils enjoy a broad curriculum and lots of clubs and activities. They become good readers and mathematicians. Sport and physical education (PE) are a prominent feature of the school. Pupils take part in physical activities like the daily mile without feeling pressured to do so. They are enthusiastic about sports and games. Many pupils talk about how these opportunities build their confidence and resilience.

There is a supportive atmosphere in the school. Pupils respect the needs of others. Older pupils help younger ones in the playground. Pupils understand how to recognise bullying, and they are confident that staff would sort out any problems. There are very few incidents of poor behaviour. On rare occasions, some pupils lose concentration in class when they are unclear about what they need to learn.

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

The school's motto is 'Respect, Resilience and Responsibility'. Leaders make sure that these themes underpin everything that the school does. They want all pupils to be able to succeed, whatever their needs. Leaders are quick to identify pupils who need extra support. They make full use of specialist advice and training to put the right support in place. As a result, pupils with SEND receive the help they need. They gain confidence and make strong progress across the whole curriculum. Pupils learn from the example set by the school staff. Pupils respect each other's differences and show a strong sense of responsibility when helping their friends.

Leaders' curriculum plans identify what pupils need to learn in every subject. These include the knowledge, skills and vocabulary that pupils learn each term. Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning in subjects such as art, science and PE. They show a strong knowledge of these subjects. In some subjects, such as history, pupils learn important facts but are less sure about how different aspects of history link together. For example, when questioned, pupils remembered a lot of detail about their study of the Second World War. However, they were unable to link any of this learning with their previous study of Florence Nightingale and the Crimean War.

Pupils are proud of their school and they work hard. The school curriculum includes lots of opportunities for pupils to build their confidence and try new things. Pupils visit places of interest and work with visitors such as local authors. Pupils attend a wide variety of clubs, from yoga and gymnastics to cooking and gardening. The

strong PE curriculum encourages pupils to push themselves. Many pupils are inspired to join local clubs and continue to enjoy sports after they leave the school.

Leaders have made big changes in the Reception class and children are achieving more now. Staff work with parents to identify children's interests and needs. They use this knowledge to build an exciting curriculum. This approach inspires children to learn and reach high standards. During the inspection, children were learning about space. They were keen to show that they could recite the planets in order. They could talk at length about Neil Armstrong and what it might be like to be an astronaut.

Leaders want pupils to develop a lifelong love of reading. They make sure that staff have the training that they need to teach phonics. There is strong communication between teachers and parents. This helps parents to support their children with reading. Children learn letter sounds from the beginning of the Reception class. Teachers continue to build pupils' knowledge of phonics systematically throughout key stage 1. Pupils read books which match the sounds they know. This helps them to practise their phonics. Teachers often read to pupils. The pupils we spoke with told us about their favourite books and stories that they had heard from their teachers. Most pupils are fluent readers by the time they enter Year 3. Pupils who struggle with reading receive effective support to help them catch up.

Leadership of mathematics is strong. Teachers have received effective training from the subject leader. Pupils use correct mathematical vocabulary, including children in Reception. Pupils receive regular opportunities to apply their learning when solving problems. Pupils achieve well by the end of Year 4. On some occasions, teachers introduce too much content at once. When this happens, pupils find it hard to remember what they have covered in the lesson.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff know the pupils well. They are quick to spot small changes in pupils' behaviour that might be a cause for concern. All staff receive regular safeguarding training and updates. They are clear about what to do if they have a concern. Any concerns are reported and followed up well.

Leaders make sure that all staff undergo detailed employment checks. These checks are recorded appropriately in a single central register.

Pupils learn how to stay safe as part of the curriculum. This includes learning about how to stay safe online. A programme of assemblies supports the school's work in this area. These assemblies are sometimes led by pupils as digital leaders.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- A small minority of pupils do not remember the important content they have been taught in subjects like mathematics and history. Inspection evidence demonstrates that content is not always taught sequentially. Leaders' checks in this regard could be stronger and more focused. Consequently, leaders should ensure that they focus more closely on how the curriculum is implemented across the school – including what is taught and when – so that they have a stronger understanding of how well pupils achieve and of the reasons for any underachievement.
- By the end of Year 4, pupils have developed strong knowledge across most subjects. However, in subjects such as history, this knowledge is limited to factual recall of information. Pupils struggle to connect concepts across different units of work, so their understanding of the subject is not as strong as it could be. This is, in part, because some curriculum plans are not sufficiently focused on the most important content pupils should know inside out. Leaders should develop curriculum documentation further to include important themes and ideas.

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	122186
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	10121743
Type of school	First
School category	Maintained
Age range of pupils	4 to 9
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	135
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Joe Rutherford
Headteacher	Anne Robertson
Website	www.tweedmouthwest.northumberland.sch.uk/
Date of previous inspection	8–9 March 2016, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The departure of the previous headteacher has resulted in a change of leadership since the inspection in 2016. The former deputy headteacher has been appointed headteacher, and a former member of the teaching staff has been appointed deputy headteacher.
- The size and context of the school are similar to what they were at the previous inspection, although the proportion of pupils who have an education, health and care plan has risen to be higher than the national average.

Information about this inspection

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

- We met the headteacher and deputy headteacher. We met the special educational needs coordinator and representatives from the governing body. We also spoke with a representative from the local authority.

- We focused on the quality of the curriculum in reading, mathematics, PE and history. We spoke with the leaders for these subjects, visited lessons, spoke with pupils about their learning, looked at pupils' workbooks and talked with teachers.
- We looked at information about school clubs and wider enrichment events. We also looked at information about behaviour and attendance.
- We looked at pupils' punctuality and behaviour across the school day. We held discussions with groups of pupils, including those with SEND. We listened to pupils read and spoke with parents at the start of the school day. We also spoke with different members of staff to gauge their views about the school.
- We looked at the provision for pupils with additional needs. We visited the school's nurture group and breakfast club. We visited events throughout the school day, such as assembly, 'Wake and Shake' and the daily mile.
- We looked at the checks leaders make on adults who work in the school. We also talked to the headteacher and other members of staff about safeguarding arrangements. We looked at records of the actions taken by leaders to protect pupils at risk. We spoke to pupils to check how safe they felt. We also checked whether members of staff understand and abide by the school's safeguarding policy.

Inspection team

Ian Dawson, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Stephen Fallon

Ofsted Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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