

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231
www.gov.uk/ofsted



15 October 2020

Suzanne Cooper
Headteacher
Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy
Callington Road
Saltash
Cornwall
PL12 6DX

Dear Mrs Cooper

Ofsted visit to Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy

Following my visit with Tracey Reynolds, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 1 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to the senior leadership team. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

Context

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full education for pupils following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

From this visit, inspectors noted that:

- You opened the school to all pupils on 7 September 2020.
- Attendance is lower than at this time last year. Most absence is the result of self-isolation, where a pupil or a member of their household has shown symptoms of COVID-19.
- Pupils are studying the full range of subjects. You have adapted the curriculum in the light of the protective measures you have in place. For example, pupils do not have access to visiting music teachers and they are not able to use the nearby library as they normally would.
- Teachers have assessed pupils' reading. This has highlighted that some pupils have gaps in their knowledge. You are using teachers who specialise in teaching reading to help pupils catch up.
- Your assessments in mathematics show that pupils have lost some confidence and fluency with numbers. Your teachers are providing pupils with extra practice each afternoon.
- You have noticed that pupils' physical development and fitness have declined. To address this, your teachers are prioritising physical activities. You have also extended the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum with lessons to promote pupils' well-being.
- You have arrangements in place for remote learning if this is needed again. Your plans include a daily recorded lesson with the class teacher. For the Reception class, Year 1 and Year 2, you intend for this lesson to focus on phonics.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body and the chief executive officer of the multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Cornwall. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Lydia Pride
Her Majesty's Inspector