

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231
www.gov.uk/ofsted



15 October 2020

P Hughes
Headteacher
Crumpsall Lane Primary School
Crumpsall Lane
Crumpsall
Manchester
M8 5SR

Dear Mr Hughes

Ofsted visit to Crumpsall Lane Primary School

Following my visit with Adam Sproston, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 29 September 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 you, the head of school and the assistant headteacher. 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:

- The school opened to Year 5, Year 6 and the Reception Year on 4 September. The school opened fully to pupils on 9 September 2020.
- Attendance is below the normal attendance for this time of year. You are telling parents and carers about the importance of pupils attending school regularly.
- Pupils are studying all subjects in the curriculum. You have prioritised the teaching of English, mathematics, physical education and personal, social and health education. Staff are writing plans to enable pupils to return to their usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Staff have carried out checks to determine where pupils are up to in learning to read. These checks show that most pupils have remembered their phonics learning since March. Across all year groups, teachers are spending more time teaching reading.
- Across the school, your staff have also checked pupils' new starting points in mathematics. Teachers have used these checks to make some changes to the content of the mathematics curriculum. For example, staff are helping pupils to learn important number facts such as multiplication facts.
- You are beginning to increase teaching time in other curriculum subjects. Staff intend to make checks on pupils' new starting points in these subjects. You are in the process of moving to a new online platform to help with the delivery of remote learning. You and your leaders have taken steps to ensure that all families will be able to access digital learning. You are providing training for staff to use the new systems.

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, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Manchester. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Stevens
Her Majesty's Inspector