

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231
www.gov.uk/ofsted



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Duncan Cook
Executive Headteacher
Grove Junior School
White Oak Way
Nailsea
Somerset
BS48 4YZ

Dear Mr Cook

Ofsted visit to Grove Junior School

Following my visit with Jen Southall, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 15 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 you and the assistant headteachers, including those responsible for safeguarding. 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:

- Grove Junior school opened to all pupils on the 2 September 2020.
- Pupils' attendance is broadly in line with the usual attendance figures seen at this time of year.
- All pupils are studying every subject of the curriculum. You are prioritising personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and reading to help pupils catch up. There are practical aspects of some subjects, including computing, physical education and music, which are not being taught at the moment.
- Teachers have completed assessments to determine what pupils know and can remember in reading, writing and mathematics. This is to help teachers gain a better understanding of what pupils need to learn so that pupils can catch up.
- Reading is a priority. Teachers are providing opportunities to promote reading, including phonics catch-up for pupils who need it. Teachers are focusing on improving pupils' understanding and comprehension of what they are reading.
- Teachers are assessing what pupils know and can remember in mathematics. Teachers have noticed gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding of number, particularly division, fractions, decimals and percentages.
- You have plans to deliver the curriculum remotely, should this be needed. Teachers use a combination of the school's website, paper packs and digital programs to deliver the curriculum and maintain communication between home and school.

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 board of trustees and the chief executive officer of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for North Somerset. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Gale
Her Majesty's Inspector