

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231  
[www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)



16 November 2020

Debbie Glover  
Headteacher  
Poppleton Road Primary School  
Poppleton Road  
York  
North Yorkshire  
YO26 4UP

Dear Mrs Glover

### **Ofsted visit to Poppleton Road Primary School**

Following my visit with Suzanne Dunn, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 8 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 deputy 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 all pupils on 8 September 2020. All pupils are expected to attend the school full time.
- Attendance is in line with where it usually is at this time of year. Leaders say that all staff are involved in reiterating attendance expectations to parents. Leaders have supported and reassured parents and pupils about the return to school, and the safety measures in place, through transition events.
- All pupils are studying their usual range of subjects. Leaders have dedicated more time for personal, social, health and economic education and physical education this term. This is because leaders want to prioritise pupils' physical and mental well-being.
- Leaders explained that, in reading, some pupils in Years 1 and 2 have gaps in their phonic knowledge. Teachers have adapted their teaching activities to address this, and are providing additional time and resources to help pupils catch up.
- In mathematics, assessments show that pupils need more opportunities to revisit their number and fluency skills. Teachers are addressing this through their daily mathematics lessons, as well as developing opportunities to practise these skills in other subjects.
- Leaders are considering how to maintain wider curriculum opportunities for pupils. This includes making plans for virtual extra-curricular opportunities, as well as continuing off-site trips to locations that can be visited safely.
- Leaders are planning to use a mixed approach to remote education in future, should this be required. This would involve 'live' lessons as well as other online and physical resources. Leaders told us that teachers are working to

align remote education with the curriculum being taught to pupils who are still attending 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 governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for North Yorkshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Tim Jenner  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**