

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231
www.gov.uk/ofsted



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Jane Macey
Principal
Hamstreet Primary Academy
Hamstreet
Ashford
Kent
TN26 2EA

Dear Mrs Macey

Ofsted visit to Hamstreet Primary Academy

Following my visit with Clive Dunn, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 3 December 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 chief executive officer of the Ace Learning multi-academy trust, the vice principal, the family liaison officer and four curriculum leaders. 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:

- A small proportion of pupils have had to study at home at some point since the start of school in September 2020.
- With the exception of languages, pupils are studying all of the subjects that they usually would. In some subjects, such as computing and science, you have adapted the curriculum so that some of the knowledge that pupils have forgotten or missed can be revisited. You plan to reintroduce languages to the curriculum by summer term 2021.
- Teachers' assessments have shown that many pupils are behind in their reading. In early years and Year 1, teachers have increased the time dedicated to teaching phonics because they have found that pupils are not where they should be in their phonic knowledge. In Years 3 to 6, teachers are spending more time on developing pupils' comprehension and fluency in reading.
- In mathematics, teachers have used what they have learned about pupils' new starting points to make some changes to the knowledge that pupils are learning. In Years 1 to 6, teachers have concentrated on embedding pupils' understanding of place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- In the wider curriculum, leaders have made some changes to the knowledge that pupils learn. For example, in science, teachers are revisiting some subject content that pupils missed last year.

- Pupils who have studied from home at some point since September 2020 have been provided with links to online learning through the school's website. You plan that, in the future, remote education will be delivered through a combination of paper-based resources and online learning. This work will follow the topics that are being taught in 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 Ace Learning multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Kent. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Harry Ingham
Her Majesty's Inspector