

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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



16 December 2020

Joanne Banks  
Headteacher  
Flash Ley Primary School  
Hawksmoor Road  
Stafford  
Staffordshire  
ST17 9DR

Dear Mrs Banks

### **Ofsted remote visit to Flash Ley Primary School**

Following my remote visit with Heather Phillips, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 26 November 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. Following changes to government guidance and the imposition of COVID-19 (coronavirus) lockdown restrictions, we made this visit remotely to reduce pressure on the school.

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 members of your team responsible for aspects of safeguarding, attendance and the curriculum. We did not speak to pupils.

### **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 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:**

- At the time of the visit, two year-group 'bubbles' were isolating. The school was providing remote learning for these pupils. Altogether, about a quarter of pupils have been provided with remote learning at some point this term.
- Pupils are studying all of their usual subjects, although educational visits and clubs are not currently taking place. Instead, the school offers on-site enrichment activities during the school day. Leaders aim to return to the school's usual curriculum offer by summer 2021.
- In the early years, staff have reduced classroom resources so that children do not have to handle so many things.
- This term, teachers have spent more time than usual on assessment. Their checks found that some pupils have got out of their regular learning habits. In writing, for example, you told us that staff are spending more time than normal on reminding pupils about sentence structure, punctuation and handwriting.
- At the start of term, you selected a whole-school reading text. Your staff used this to generate discussion about reading and how pupils were feeling. As the term has gone on, you have purchased more reading books. You have also increased teaching time for phonics.
- In mathematics, you told us that some pupils' knowledge and confidence with number have reduced. In response, staff are planning lessons that include lots of practice and repetition of number work.

- You provide remote education for pupils who have to self-isolate. This is usually through an online resource for bubbles, but is paper-based for individuals or any pupil who cannot access online learning at home. You offer all the usual subjects, but subjects such as physical education, art and music include different activities than usual.

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 Staffordshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Martin Pye  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**