

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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



11 January 2021

Helen Millward  
Headteacher  
Upland Primary School  
Church Road  
Bexleyheath  
Kent  
DA7 4DG

Dear Mrs Millward

### **Ofsted visit to Upland Primary School**

Following my visit with Ruth Dollner, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 9 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 and the senior leadership team. 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:**

- Since the start of term, approximately one fifth of pupils across the school have learned from home for a period of time while self-isolating.
- Pupils are studying the school's usual range of subjects, except for languages, design and technology and religious education. Leaders have prioritised additional teaching in English and mathematics. The content missed in the three subjects not currently being taught will be delivered in the spring term in addition to the planned curriculum.
- Teachers have checked pupils' phonics knowledge in Years 1 to 3. This information has been used to provide additional phonics sessions focusing on blending and segmenting sounds in unfamiliar words. All teachers are placing an emphasis on developing vocabulary skills across the range of subjects taught.
- In mathematics, teachers are using ongoing assessment to identify where pupils have gaps in their knowledge. Leaders found that pupils were finding the application of using formal written methods tricky. Teachers have prioritised different aspects of mathematics in each year group.
- For the autumn term, you put in place a 'restoration curriculum'. The focus of this was to rebuild pupils' self-confidence and social skills. In the early years foundation stage, teachers have placed an emphasis on pupils' communication skills, with an increased range of speaking and listening activities for pupils' participation.

- Teachers are providing remote education for all pupils who are self-isolating. Learning reflects the work set in class. All pupils who are self-isolating are provided with online education, including daily reading, English and mathematics tasks and a project-based activity. In addition, online materials such as phonics activities are provided to support early readers.

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 chair of the board of trustees, and the chief executive officer of the Unity multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Bexley. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Daniel-John Constable  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**