

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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



4 January 2021

Gillian Marsland  
Headteacher  
Oughtrington Community Primary School  
Howard Avenue  
Rushgreen Road  
Lymm  
Cheshire  
WA13 9EH

Dear Miss Marsland

### **Ofsted visit to Oughtrington Community Primary School**

Following my visit with Sheila Iwaskow, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 10 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 and the two deputy headteachers. 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 quarter of pupils have spent some time studying from home. One Year 5 class has worked from home on two separate occasions.
- Pupils are studying their usual range of subjects. Teachers have amended curriculum plans to incorporate important subject content which was not taught in the summer term, so that pupils can learn the knowledge they have missed. You are aiming to return all pupils to the usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Checks have shown that some pupils have lost their love of reading. Teachers are providing additional whole-class lessons to help re-engage pupils with this subject. Teachers are also focusing on pupils' comprehension skills, as some pupils are not using the skills of inference and deduction as well as they did before March 2020.
- Teachers are teaching the usual mathematics curriculum. However, teachers' checks on pupils' learning identified that some pupils are not as confident in their number work. Some pupils are also not using a wide range of strategies to solve mathematical problems. Teachers are providing more opportunities to help pupils regain this lost knowledge.
- In subjects other than English and mathematics, teachers' checks have shown that some pupils are not as confident with their practical skills as they were before March 2020. There has been an increased focus in lessons on these

skills. For example, in science, pupils have more time to work on their investigation skills and in design technology, there is a focus on construction skills.

- You offer remote education online and in paper-based packs. You provide pupils who are self-isolating with daily activities, including English, mathematics and something from the wider curriculum. Younger pupils also have phonics activities that match what they would be learning 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 governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Warrington. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Simon Hunter  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**