

Inspection of Hempland Primary School

Whitby Avenue, Stockton Lane, York, North Yorkshire YO31 1ET

Inspection dates: 19 and 20 October 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Early years provision	Good
Previous inspection grade	Not previously inspected under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils talk very positively about their school. They describe their teachers as caring, and learning as fun. Pupils understand and apply the school values of respect, opportunity, ambition and resilience to all they do. These values are woven through the school curriculum. One pupil said: 'If you can't respect yourself, you can't respect others.' Pupils appreciate the need to show respect for different cultures, beliefs and faiths.

Behaviour is generally good. The school is calm, and pupils have positive attitudes to their learning. Pupils know how to keep themselves safe in school, on the internet and if using social media.

The school's curriculum planning is strong in many areas. The plans for early years children are not as detailed as the rest of the school.

The school is highly inclusive with the addition of the deaf and hearing-impaired centre. Teachers' planning across all subjects considers the adaptations needed for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to be successful.

The staff are proud to work at the school. They feel well supported and enjoy working at Hempland.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The leadership team at the school are very new. There has been a high turnover of staff in recent years and a period of instability in the senior leadership team. The headteacher began leading the school in September 2021. An executive headteacher from the trust is supporting leadership.

Leaders have made rapid improvements during the last year to construct a well-planned and sequenced curriculum. Subject leaders have developed a curriculum that builds on what pupils have learned and prepares them for future learning. Subject leaders have considered how they can make links with other subjects. For example, in geography pupils learning about Greece made links with history by researching Ancient Greece and design and technology (DT) by designing and making a sandal.

Subject leaders are skilled and knowledgeable. They have sought support from external sources. For example, the leader of DT has joined the DT Association to access specialist advice and support to strengthen the school's planning and resources. Subject leaders have led staff training to establish clear expectations and to share good practice. This has developed consistency in the delivery of the wider curriculum subjects. Teachers who are in the early stages of their careers are overwhelmingly positive about their professional development.

Reading has a high profile across the school. Every classroom has a dedicated reading area. Pupils read with fluency and use their phonics knowledge to sound out new words. Leaders have a 'Book Buddy' incentive scheme to encourage pupils to read at home. Leaders have recognised that their current phonics scheme is not fit for purpose. They are researching new programmes to introduce as soon as possible. This will be linked to a new assessment system. Pupils in key stage 2 who still need help to learn their phonics receive personalised teaching. This is enabling them to catch up. Younger pupils who are not keeping up with the school's phonics programme receive weekly interventions. Leaders are confident this is enough to catch up by the end of the year. However, more regular interventions would ensure pupils catch up more quickly.

The special educational needs and disabilities coordinator (SENDCo) has been in role for one year. The SENDCo has ensured that teachers adapt the curriculum for pupils with SEND. For example, one pupil who struggles to take part in physical education (PE) has the option to change in a different area and has the PE plan talked through with them before the lesson begins. Leaders work with the local authority to provide specialist teaching for pupils who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Leaders have recently appointed a new key stage 1 and early years leader to strengthen the leadership team. Early years children are taught key skills in group times. They can practise and apply these in the indoor and outdoor environment. Leaders have a plan that maps out the areas for learning and development. However, leaders recognise that further work is needed to ensure this matches the detail of the curriculum plans of other subject leaders.

The local governing committee (LGC) has appointed most of the governors since January 2021. They have valued the impact of the trust involvement in being able to develop leadership.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders have given safeguarding training a high priority. There is a weekly staff bulletin that always includes a safeguarding update. The members of the LGC have all undertaken safeguarding training. The link governor for safeguarding regularly meets with leaders to discuss safeguarding. Pupils say that they feel safe in school. Leaders are rigorous in the checks they make when appointing new staff. Leaders recognised that staff needed training in how to record concerns on their electronic system. This took place in September 2021. On some occasions, records did not reflect the consistent language and detail expected by the leaders.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Leaders have not yet decided which validated scheme they want to use to teach phonics. Leaders should make this decision swiftly. Leaders should ensure staff are trained so the school has a consistent approach to teaching and assessing phonics.
- Staff use an electronic system to record any incidents, for example incidents of bullying or discriminatory behaviour. Leaders have recently trained staff to record with greater accuracy. Leaders need to embed this practice. They should check that the language recorded reflects the school's expectations.
- The EYFS team has a long-term plan that maps out the seven areas of learning for the early years children. This plan is not as detailed as other curriculum plans for pupils in key stages 1 and 2. Leaders should develop the EYFS plan further to align it with the quality and detail of the curriculum planning elsewhere in the school.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the school and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	142844
Local authority	York
Inspection number	10199325
Type of school	Primary
School category	Academy converter
Age range of pupils	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	426
Appropriate authority	Local Governing Committee
Chair of governing body	Susanna Dale-Simmonds
Headteacher	Abigail Innes
Website	www.hemplandprimary.co.uk
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected

Information about this school

- This school was last inspected in 2006.
- Since the last inspection, the school has become an academy converter. Pathfinder Multi-Academy Trust has worked with the school since August 2016.
- The school has a deaf and hearing support centre on site. The Caddell Centre operates in collaboration with City of York specialist teachers to support pupils with hearing impairments.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- Inspectors met with the headteacher and other leaders. Meetings were also held with representatives of the local governing committee and the trust.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading, mathematics, physical education, geography and design and technology. For each deep dive,

inspectors met with curriculum leaders, spoke to pupils and teachers and looked at their work. Inspectors heard pupils read.

- Inspectors examined safeguarding records, attendance figures, curriculum plans and policies.
- The views of parents were sought through the 158 responses to Ofsted's parents' survey.
- The views of staff were considered from meetings with staff and from the 39 responses to Ofsted's questionnaire for staff.
- The views of pupils were also considered from meetings and the 162 responses to Ofsted's pupils' survey.

Inspection team

Alison Stephenson, lead inspector	Her Majesty's Inspector
Helen Hussey	Ofsted Inspector
Mike Smit	Ofsted Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2021