

Inspection of a school judged outstanding for overall effectiveness before September 2024: Neatishead Church of England Primary School

School Road, Neatishead, Norwich, Norfolk NR12 8XN

Inspection dates:

11 March 2025

Outcome

Neatishead Church of England Primary School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection.

What is it like to attend this school?

This small school supports pupils to 'soar on wings'. Pupils are knowledgeable and well prepared for life after Neatishead. Pupils love their school. They fully embrace their teachers' high expectations and vision for their lives. They achieve and attend well. Their behaviour is exemplary. Pupils are happy and safe because the school has a highly caring ethos. House captains are highly positive role models who look out for younger pupils.

Pupils brim with enthusiasm in lessons and around the school. As from Reception, children are ready to learn. They listen carefully to their teachers and answer their questions with eagerness. Pupils share their knowledge with confidence. They help each other to learn better. Pupils debate well and respect differing viewpoints.

The school nurtures compassionate, kind young people who understand their responsibilities as global citizens. Eco-councillors heighten other pupils' awareness of environmental issues. They raise money to support international wildlife charities and campaign to reduce plastic waste. Pupils communicate with other school children across the world and read books which celebrate different lifestyles. Pupils therefore build a rich knowledge of other cultures and religions. As a result, they are openminded, respectful and do not tolerate any form of prejudice.

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

The school's curriculum is highly ambitious. Pupils gain the knowledge and develop important values which puts them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

Teachers have strong subject knowledge because of the high-quality training they receive. They present concepts and ideas clearly and check pupils' understanding with rigour. Teachers sensitively correct misconceptions and errors in pupils' learning. They prompt pupils well so that they work things out for themselves and research new knowledge independently. Pupils are therefore resilient. They persist in their learning when tasks become more demanding and complex.

Pupils regularly revisit what they have learned before. As a result, they recall knowledge with ease. They apply this knowledge, for example, to calculate and reason in mathematics using precise subject specific vocabulary.

The knowledge pupils learn links to prior learning and to other areas of the curriculum. Pupils therefore grasp more sophisticated concepts which they explain with clarity. As a result, pupils discuss mature world issues such as homelessness, immigration and the impact of war. They demonstrate tremendous empathy for those who are less fortunate than themselves.

Learning to read is at the heart of the curriculum. Children rapidly gain sounds and blend familiar language. Older pupils are expressive, fluent readers. Any pupil who falls behind with their reading receive swift support and they improve. Pupils build a rich vocabulary and a secure understanding of grammar. Pupils in Years 2 and 3 apply this knowledge to describe life in ancient Egypt and to construct imaginative modern fairy tales. Older pupils write in a broad variety of styles to persuade, inform, debate and entertain. They compose, for example, original horror stories of considerable length which convincingly build suspense.

The provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is exceptional. Teachers implement precise adaptations to the curriculum to help pupils with SEND overcome barriers to learning. As a result, pupils with SEND flourish and contribute well to the wider life of the school.

Pupils enjoy a range of extra-curricular activities. These experiences enhance pupils' curriculum knowledge and equip them with important life skills such as gardening, cookery and survival techniques. They gain knowledge about boat building which enriches their understanding of local industry. They grasp teamwork and build their independence further on residential trips. Music permeates the school. Pupils compete in regional singing competitions and perform in theatrical productions.

Leaders and governors efficiently and accurately evaluate how well the school is performing. Their actions ensure that the school's provision is of exceptional quality. Staff value the training they receive to enable them to be at their best. They find their workload reasonable and leaders considerate of their well-being. Parents are effusive in their praise of all areas of school life. Leaders are rightfully sharing their expertise to support other local schools.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Background

Until September 2024, on a graded (section 5) inspection we gave schools an overall effectiveness grade, in addition to the key and provision judgements. Overall effectiveness grades given before September 2024 will continue to be visible on school inspection reports and on Ofsted's website. From September 2024 graded inspections will not include an overall effectiveness grade. This school was, before September 2024, judged outstanding for its overall effectiveness.

We have now inspected the school to determine whether it has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at that previous inspection. This is called an ungraded inspection, and it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. We do not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection. However, if we find evidence that a school's work has improved significantly or that it may not be as strong as it was at the last inspection, then the next inspection will be a graded inspection. A graded inspection is carried out under section 5 of the Act. Usually this is within one to two years of the date of the ungraded inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will deem the ungraded inspection a graded inspection immediately.

This is the first ungraded inspection since we judged the school to be outstanding for overall effectiveness in 6–7 February 2019.

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.

Further information

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

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the [definition of children in need of help and protection](#); pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's [pupil premium](#)

funding (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).

School details

Unique reference number	121090
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10345244
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary controlled
Age range of pupils	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	68
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Graham Johnston
Headteacher	Hayley Sonnex
Website	www.neatisheadprimaryschool.co.uk/
Dates of previous inspection	6 to 7 February 2019, under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The school has a Church of England ethos.
- The school received a section 48 inspection on 10 February 2023. The school is expecting a section 48 inspection in 2028.
- The school makes no use of alternative provision.
- At the time of the inspection, there were three children in Reception Year.

Information about this inspection

- Inspections are a point-in-time judgement about the quality of a school's education provision.
- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.

- The inspectors met with governors, the executive headteacher, other leaders, subject leaders, teachers and support staff. The inspectors focused inspection activity on the following groups of subjects: reading, writing, mathematics, PE and history. Inspectors spoke with subject leaders, visited lessons, met with pupils and staff and considered pupils' work.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, inspectors reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.
- Inspectors considered the views of pupils, staff and parents. There were 12 responses to Ofsted's staff survey. There were 13 responses to Ofsted's pupil survey. There were 26 responses to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Ofsted Parent View. The inspectors considered 22 free-text responses from parents. Inspectors also spoke to parents.

Inspection team

Adam Cooke, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

Nick Asker

Ofsted Inspector

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