

Darnhall Primary School  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware Ofsted visited our school in October for a couple of days. I am now writing to share the findings of this 'snapshot' visit with you and I am delighted to say we were judged to be a 'Good' school.

We are thrilled to have been judged as good by Ofsted for a decade now and I have enjoyed reflecting over the last ten years. Ofsted is only a small part of school evaluation and the overwhelmingly positive reputation this school has within the community, and the growth in pupil numbers, is clear evidence that we are a happy, safe, and inclusive learning community. We are so proud of everything the school is achieving at the heart of the community.

We wanted to highlight some of the many strengths from our Ofsted report and celebrate these with you. The full report is on our school website for you to read. This can be found under the 'For Parents and Carers' tab.

- **Pupils are proud to attend this school which sits firmly at the heart of its community.**
- **Pupils said that they feel safe and happy. They know that they are valued and that everyone is welcome in their school.**
- **The school provides an ambitious curriculum.**
- **Pupils typically progress well through the curriculum.**
- **The school makes sure that teachers have the expertise that they need to deliver the curriculum well.**
- **Teachers use assessment strategies well to check on pupils' learning. This ensures that those pupils who struggle with their learning receive the support that they need to catch up.**

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- Children in the early years, including those who attend the two-year-old provision, settle quickly into the routines of school.
- The teaching of reading is prioritised. This begins as soon as children start in the Reception Year.
- Reading books are carefully matched to pupils' phonics knowledge. Pupils who struggle to read are supported to catch up.
- Older pupils are encouraged to choose appropriate books. They read confidently and are keen to talk about the books that they enjoy.
- Pupils are motivated to read regularly.
- Pupils with SEND are swiftly identified, including in the early years.
- The school makes sure that SEND pupils access the same curriculum as their peers.
- In the specially resourced provision for pupils with SEND, they have a curriculum that is tailored to their individual needs.
- The school has high expectations of pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- Pupils work hard and try their best.
- The atmosphere in school is calm and purposeful
- Pupils enjoy being with their friends.
- Pupils develop as well-rounded citizens who contribute to society.
- Pupils appreciate the wide range of opportunities that the school offers.
- Pupils behave well. They are curious learners who have positive attitudes in lessons.
- Parents and carers hold the school in high regard. They said that their children, including those with SEND, thrive.
- The school goes above and beyond to engage parents in their children's education. In particular, this is helping to ensure that pupils attend school regularly.
- The school actively promotes pupils' personal development. It has thought carefully about the opportunities that it provides beyond the curriculum.
- The school enables pupils to extend their everyday experiences.

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- Pupils said that school helps them to raise their aspirations.
- Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain.
- The governing body are committed to their roles. They know the school and its community well.
- Governors draw upon their substantial expertise to provide the right balance of support and challenge to the school.
- Staff well-being is a high priority. Staff said that they feel valued.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All visitors who come to the school always comment on what a special place we are and I feel incredibly privileged to lead this school and all staff members here feel very much appreciated.

As a school that never stands still in its development, we are always looking for new and inspirational ideas and activities to enhance what we offer your wonderful children. At the time of the inspection, leaders had identified and were working on enhancements to our Early Years provision, to ensure that children have the very best start to their learning journey.

Over the past 12 months, we have been working hard on how we develop 'sticky learning' across the curriculum so that children know more and remember more. As you know, we started the school year with a family competition to fill a jar with things that your child is learning in school, in order to ignite dialogue at home. We hope that this is helping your child to retain their learning. This is something that you could continue to do at home to help your child's learning 'stick'.

If you have any queries about this report, please contact the school.

We thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to building upon our strong partnership.

With kindest regards,

Sarah Tomlinson

Headteacher

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