

Inspection of Woolaston Primary School

Netherend, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 6PH

Inspection dates: 17 and 18 May 2023

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	Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this school?

This is a happy, nurturing and inclusive school. Pupils are friendly and polite. Relationships between pupils and staff are kind and respectful. Staff care for pupils and help them to learn well. One parent commented, 'The culture is nurturing, considerate and supportive to all.'

Leaders recognise the importance of pupil voice. The school council and eco council are active in the daily life of the school. Pupils relate the fundamental British values to their roles and responsibilities. They know that democracy was used to vote them in to their role. Pupils choose a charity to support every year. They learn how to help others.

Leaders have high expectations for pupils' behaviour. All staff use consistent procedures and routines to support pupils to behave well. Pupils know who they can turn to if they need help with any worries they have. This helps them to feel safe. Pupils say that bullying is rare. They are confident that adults will sort out any problems quickly.

Parents describe the positive impact the school has had on their child's confidence. They appreciate the opportunities that leaders provide to support pupils' academic and social development.

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

Leaders work to bring about improvements with determination. They provide clarity and direction. Leaders are ambitious for all pupils. They have developed a broad and ambitious curriculum, especially in English and mathematics. Pupils learn well in mathematics because leaders have identified the key knowledge that they need to learn. Teachers encourage pupils to use equipment to support their mathematical understanding. For example, in the early years, this helps children to identify odd and even numbers. However, in some foundation subjects, pupils do not build their knowledge as well as they could because the previous curriculum left them with gaps in their understanding. Leaders are taking steps to ensure these gaps reduce.

The curriculum has been strengthened recently in some subjects, such as art and design and history. Subject leaders have designed the curriculum to build pupils' knowledge from the early years to Year 6. They regularly monitor their subjects. However, some subject leaders have not yet acted on what they know. Pupils do not yet know and remember more in all subjects. Leaders ensure that the curriculum for all subjects starts in the early years. For example, in history, children sort old and new toys and explain their choices. Children discuss things that have happened in the past to develop their vocabulary for history learning in Year 1.

Leaders prioritise reading. All staff are well trained to teach phonics. Staff use consistent approaches to teach pupils how to read. This helps pupils to become fluent readers. Leaders check that pupils read books that match their phonic knowledge. Any pupil who falls behind receives appropriate support to catch up quickly. Staff emphasise new vocabulary and help pupils to remember it. For example, in the early years, children explore exciting activities to help them understand the meaning of 'ooze'.

Pupils read widely and regularly. Older pupils talk enthusiastically about the range of books by different authors they have been reading. Pupils have plenty of opportunities to read for pleasure. They look forward to their daily story time.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well supported. Leaders know the needs of these pupils well and ensure their needs are met. Leaders identify and eliminate barriers to learning. The nurture provision is a special place. Pupils with social and emotional needs receive the support they need to understand and manage their feelings.

Pupils understand the importance of physical and mental health to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They have a developing sense of fundamental British values and how they relate to their own lives. Pupils understand the importance of tolerance and respect for everybody. They enjoy attending a range of sporting and art clubs.

Pupils have positive attitudes to learning. One pupil said they 'learn something new every day.' Pupils are keen to succeed and focus well on their learning.

Leaders have made many recent improvements. Staff say that leaders consider their well-being and workload throughout the changes. Governors have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They are highly committed to the continued development of the school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders prioritise safeguarding. They provide regular training. Staff know pupils' needs well. This helps them to remain vigilant to any potential concerns. Safeguarding record-keeping is detailed. Concerns about pupils are recorded without delay. Leaders liaise with external agencies to get pupils and their families the help they need.

Recruitment procedures are robust. Leaders make the necessary safeguarding checks when appointing new staff.

Pupils understand how to stay safe both online and physically. This includes keeping safe in the local community, such as road safety.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Monitoring and evaluation of foundation subjects are at an early stage. As a result, subject leaders have not yet acted on their findings to improve the curriculum further. Some pupils may not learn as well as they could. Subject leaders need to carry out their roles effectively to bring about further improvements.
- The curriculum in the foundation subjects is still relatively new. Legacy gaps in pupils' knowledge remain. This hinders pupils' building of knowledge over time. Leaders need to ensure that teachers identify and address any remaining gaps so that pupils learn the new curriculum as intended.

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](#)' 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	115559
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10268214
Type of school	Primary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	135
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Richard Heys and Marion Evans (Co-chairs)
Headteacher	Jennifer Lane
Website	www.woolastonprimary.co.uk
Dates of previous inspection	25 and 26 June 2019, under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The school is part of the Forest Edge Federation.
- The school does not use alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

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

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors met with the headteacher, subject leaders and members of the governing body.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading, mathematics, history and art. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with

subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work.

- The lead inspector listened to pupils in Years 1, 2 and 3 reading to an adult.
- The lead inspector had meetings with the headteacher, the special educational needs coordinator, the administrator, a representative from the local authority and members of the governing body.
- The lead inspector met the designated safeguarding leads, checked the single central record and looked at safeguarding records.
- Inspectors observed pupils' behaviour in class and around school, including at breaktimes. Inspectors held discussions with leaders about pupils' wider development.
- Inspectors gathered parents' views by considering their responses to Ofsted's online survey, Ofsted Parent View, and by talking to parents after school. Inspectors considered the views of a range of pupils. They also considered responses from the staff survey.

Inspection team

Lizzy Meadows, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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Ofsted Inspector

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