

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rochdale Old Road
Bury, Lancashire
BL9 7SD
Tel: 0161-764-1559
Fax: 0161-797-3321
E-Mail: Fairfield@bury.gov.uk



HEAD TEACHER: Mr. C. J. Ashley BA (Hons)
DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER: Mrs. D. Channell BA (Hons)

OFSTED INSPECTION - 13TH FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sending home a copy of the letter sent to me by the Lead OFSTED Inspector following her visit in February. The inspection was in the short form and so the letter is in fact the official report.

I am extremely pleased with the findings and I must thank everybody in our school community for their contribution. **Firstly, yourselves.** The comment about parents responses has made me hugely proud. Only one parent out of 99 returns had negative views and we are all very pleased that parents appreciate that we try to go the extra mile to make children happy but still ensure that we aim for high standards in order to prepare children for the big wide world. Thank you all!!

The inspector concluded that the *"leadership team, governors and staff share (a) fervent commitment to each child reaching their potential."* Our work in the core areas of language and maths is proven to be of a very high standard and we are among Bury's highest achieving schools. Our children have attained above national levels for reading, writing and maths for the last three years and made progress significantly above what is expected. Some groups of our pupils achieve in the very highest percentages nationally. Great significance is given to "closing the gap" between children who are disadvantaged and those who are not, but at Fairfield we have not just closed the gap, we have opened a new one. Our disadvantaged children outperform non disadvantaged children nationally.

The inspector noted the progress that early years children make from entry into nursery where 18% arrive at expected levels to the end of reception where in 2017 this improved to 66%. Our Good Level of Development (GLD) for pupils who attended Fairfield all the way through from the start of nursery was in 2017 above national levels and in 2018 we are confident that our Reception Class GLD will be at the national level despite the fact that a large majority of children started behind or have arrived from other nurseries.

Our work with children with special needs and emotional difficulties is renowned in the authority and the progress that this group of children make is a huge strength of the school.



Aiming for: Happiness and High Standards

Those core issues are what previous inspections I have been involved in have concentrated upon. This time the inspector took all of those aspects as accepted and focused entirely on making sure that we do more than just Maths and English. I am delighted that she concluded that we do indeed do much much more and that children enjoy coming to school and especially enjoy real experiences and topic work. Safeguarding was also found to be strong and all staff and our Family Support Advisor can be proud of this vital element of our work.

Our points for improvement are very quick fixes except for ensuring that our work on equality meets new requirements. For this the inspector knows that we are already working on a new Personal, Social, Health, Education programme but that there are aspects of it that should not be rushed and which we would share with parents before implementing.

I am most proud of the fact that nurture and care of children was a theme through all of the feedback the inspector has given.

"Many pupils face significant barriers to learning. However, the strong quality of teaching, care and guidance you ensure does much to help pupils overcome these barriers. Pupils who have social and emotional difficulties benefit enormously from the calm and supportive environment and additional nurture support."

For this I thank the whole fantastic staff: teaching; support; administrative; midday and after school, who do so much more than their job descriptions for our children, often at the expense of their own family lives. I would go through the trenches with these people!

My thanks to the governors who give up their own time and impressed the inspector with their knowledge and challenge to the school and once again to yourselves.

Most importantly, thanks to our fantastic Fairfield children who always do us proud !!!!!

Yours sincerely,



C. J. Ashley
Headteacher

