

## Inspire Believe Excel



Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the school was inspected on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> day of the new academic year.

It was a pleasure for Salisbury to welcome the inspectors to our school, introduce them to our wonderful children, families and showcase the talent of the teaching teams.

At the end of the process, the verbal feedback to leaders, governors and members of the local authority was very positive. The inspectors observed that we were exceeding the requirements of the National Curriculum across many areas, that teachers plan work that helps pupils learn more and our curriculum leaders are enthusiastic about their subjects and lead them well. We also discussed the areas where the school needs to strengthen and develop further – all areas that the school leadership had already identified and has plans in place for.

Attached is the report we have received from Ofsted over half term which rates our school as GOOD. This is a positive report, and whilst being mindful of the limitations of a short report to capture the quality of education being provided in our school, it is disappointing that it fails to communicate the rich and broad curriculum pupils are offered and only includes one comment about extra-curricular activities.

Families know that children at Salisbury Primary School benefit from a high quality music, Physical Education (PE), maths, drama and art as well as Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). For those that are newer to the school, we would like to provide more detail on our approach, investments and the external validation we have received.

We have invested significantly in developing our competitive sporting curriculum alongside the core curriculum in PE. This was recognised in July 2019 with the achievement of the Platinum Sports award. Salisbury is the only school in the borough to hold it.

It is compulsory for children to be taught a Modern Foreign Language from Year 3. At Salisbury, our curriculum is taught from Year 1. This means that by Year 3, when other schools start introducing pupils to the language, our pupils have a wide spoken and written vocabulary in Spanish. They acquire this knowledge through games, songs and a range of formal and informal language learning activities, as well as exploring the language through topics linked to science, history and theme weeks.

Michelle Ginty – Headteacher  
Salisbury Primary School

Salisbury Road, London NW6 6RG T: 020 7624 0311

E:admin@salisbury.brent.sch.uk



Parents have praised the rich music curriculum we offer. Working closely with our partners at Brent Music Service, we have a curriculum now that exceeds the National Curriculum requirements and is offered by specialist teachers to all pupils from Nursery class to Year 6. Children start to learn to play instruments from Year 1 (violin), and we have over 100 pupils learning instruments, performing in school and borough ensembles and choirs.

In the same way, our rich drama and art curriculum means that our pupils make excellent progress over time and are exceeding age related attainment by the time they leave our school. Almost all of our year 5 and 6 pupils hold the Artsmark discovery award and a number of our pupils obtain Arts scholarships to secondary school each year. We are one of a small number of schools across the country to hold the Platinum Artsmark. The Arts Council said that our:

*“strong and growing arts curriculum is integrated with other subjects, well-resourced and has measured and reported outcomes showing how well the arts are embedded in your school.”* We held our first Art open morning this term and many parents supported Arts Week activities before half term. These events allowed parents to see first-hand the curriculum our pupils enjoy.

While observing 3 Science lessons on the first afternoon gave the inspector a flavour of what the school has developed for the subject. If inspectors had looked at the school’s plans for Science, this may have helped scope out the scale of the curriculum development that has already taken place. Nevertheless, we are aware that our new Science curriculum is at the very early stages of implementation. We know that further modifications may be needed as the curriculum embeds and evolves. As governors, we will ensure that our monitoring of the success of the new Science curriculum is rigorous and effective. We will make sure that leaders effect appropriate changes as required, to ensure that the curriculum supports the learning of all pupils in the school equally well.

We are enormously proud of our school and its rich, well-designed curriculum. We continue to be grateful to our dedicated and committed teachers, our fantastic children and their supportive parents that make up our amazing Salusbury family.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Morris  
Chair of Governors