

Inspection of a good school: Rawtenstall Newchurch Church of England Primary School

Dark Lane, Newchurch, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 7UA

Inspection date:

26 May 2021

Outcome

Rawtenstall Newchurch Church of England Primary School continues to be a good school.

What is it like to attend this school?

This is a school where pupils are happy and eager to learn. Pupils told us that they enjoy coming to school. They are glad to be back with their friends following the third national lockdown.

Pupils feel safe in school. This is because adults take the time to listen to them and help them to overcome any worries or concerns that they may have. Pupils told us that any arguments between friends are sorted out quickly. They explained that, when bullying has occurred, it too has been sorted out quickly by staff.

Pupils behave well and work hard in lessons. They enjoy the many clubs that they can take part in, including the gardening club and the 'fit for life' club. Older pupils contribute well to the life of the school as classroom monitors and as members of committees.

Pupils are helped to become valuable citizens in their community. They develop their resilience, teamwork and tolerance of others through a range of opportunities, including visits to different places of worship and residential trips.

Governors and staff share leaders' ambitions for all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), to succeed. Parents and carers appreciate all that staff do for their children.

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

The well-designed curriculum ignites pupils' interest in learning from the very start. Curriculum plans clearly identify connections between subjects. This helps pupils to apply what they know when learning something new. For example, pupils' previous work on changing materials in science has helped them to understand how blast furnaces worked during the industrial revolution. Leaders have carefully ordered the content in most

subjects so that pupils can build on what they know. However, the curriculum plans in some subjects lack precision about the knowledge that pupils should gain, and by when.

Leaders ensure that staff deliver the curriculum well. Staff training has enhanced teachers' subject knowledge. The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) helps staff to adapt their plans effectively for pupils with SEND. The support that pupils with SEND receive helps them to achieve well. Staff work together to share expertise and ideas. This is especially useful for those teachers who have mixed-age classes.

Teachers use assessment information effectively. They adapt their curriculum plans well to include any content that was not taught during the pandemic. This is helping most pupils to overcome the recent disruption to their education. Most pupils achieve well. Leaders provide further help for those pupils who are struggling. That said, leaders have not checked carefully enough whether this extra help is enabling pupils to know more and remember more over time.

Pupils rarely experience disruption to their learning due to poor behaviour. This helps them to focus on their learning. Pupils are proud of their achievements.

Children learn phonics as soon as they start in the Reception class. Children practise their phonics knowledge in a range of activities. The books that children and pupils read match the sounds that they are learning. Pupils in Year 1 apply their phonics knowledge accurately when reading unfamiliar words. They are becoming confident and fluent readers. Pupils who are struggling to read receive help from skilled staff. This helps them to catch up quickly. Pupils at the early stages of reading in key stage 2 also benefit from the extra support that they receive.

Teachers foster pupils' love of reading for pleasure. Pupils talked enthusiastically about the books that they have read from the well-resourced school library. Older pupils know how important reading is for their future success. They read widely across a range of subjects.

Pupils, including those with SEND, enjoy the many opportunities that leaders provide to broaden their horizons. Pupils recall fondly the previous trips and visits that they have experienced. They particularly enjoy the opportunity to learn outdoors in the wooded area. Pupils are ambitious for their future. They talked about their plans to go to university, while some are aiming to become scientists or explorers.

Governors know the school well. They are mindful of the impact that the pandemic has had on pupils, staff and the wider community. Governors are now focused on getting pupils 'back on track' with their learning. They continue to hold leaders closely to account for the quality of education that they provide for pupils.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders ensure that all staff receive appropriate training. This ensures that staff understand what to do if they have any concerns about pupils' safety or well-being. Leaders work closely with other agencies and charities. This has been increasingly important during the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders ensure that the most vulnerable pupils and their families receive the support that they need. Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe. They know how to use the internet safely and to tell a trusted adult if they have any worries or concerns.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- In most subjects, the knowledge that leaders want pupils to have is clearly identified and carefully sequenced. However, not all plans are as detailed. This hinders pupils from building on what they already know and can do. Leaders need to identify the precise knowledge that they want pupils to acquire and remember.
- Leaders use assessment information well to identify pupils who are struggling to catch up with their learning following the disruption caused by the pandemic. However, leaders have not checked to make sure that the support they have put in place to help pupils catch up is working. Leaders need to ensure that the support that they are offering is helping pupils to know and remember more over time.

Background

When we have judged a school to be good, we will then normally go into the school about once every four years to confirm that the school remains good. This is called a section 8 inspection of a good or outstanding school, because it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. We do not give graded judgements on a section 8 inspection. However, if we find some evidence that a good school could now be better than good, or that standards may be declining, then the next inspection will be a section 5 inspection. Usually this is within one to two years of the date of the section 8 inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will convert the section 8 inspection to a section 5 inspection immediately.

This is the first section 8 inspection since we judged the school to be good on 23 and 24 April 2015.

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 Ofsted Parent View information 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.

If you are the school and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

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

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	119390
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10183995
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	118
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Mrs Cudworth
Headteacher	Jane Thistlethwaite
Website	newchurchcofe.lancs.sch.uk
Dates of previous inspection	23 and 24 April 2015

Information about this school

- The school had its most recent section 48 inspection, undertaken by the Diocese of Manchester, in September 2016.
- There have been significant changes to staffing in the school since the last inspection. These include the appointment of a new SENCo, a new deputy headteacher and a new teacher for the Reception/Year 1 class.

Information about this inspection

- During the inspection, inspectors spoke with pupils about their work and school life. Inspectors spoke with the chair of governors and four members of the governing body. They also spoke with the headteacher. Inspectors reviewed a range of documentation related to the work of the school, and scrutinised documentation related to safeguarding. They also spoke virtually with representatives from the local authority and the diocese.
- Inspectors considered the 23 responses to Parent View, Ofsted's online questionnaire, including 12 free-text comments. They also spoke with parents at the start of the school day. There were no responses to either the pupils' or staff's surveys.

- During the inspection, inspectors considered the following subjects: reading and phonics, mathematics, history and science. They met with subject leaders, visited lessons, spoke to teachers and spoke to pupils about their learning. Inspectors also looked at pupils' work and listened to pupils read.
- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.

Inspection team

Amanda Stringer, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Adam Sproston

Her Majesty's Inspector

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