

Ofsted confirms Brize Norton Primary School is “Outstanding in every judgement”

Brize Norton School has become the first primary school in Oxfordshire to be judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding in every area since the introduction of the new, more rigorous inspection framework last year. Under this new framework, it is expected that fewer than 5% of schools in the country will achieve an Outstanding judgement.

The Ofsted inspection carried out in the last week of February judged that Brize Norton Primary is an outstanding school. Under the leadership of Headteacher, Mark Smith, the school community is delighted with the outcome of this latest report. Mr Smith said,

“We are very pleased with the outcome of the inspection. Since our last inspection, we have secured outstanding practice in all key stages and areas of the school’s work. The success of our school is down to the hard work and commitment of the school community. We have a highly dedicated staff team, wonderful children and a very supportive parent body.”

Lead inspector, Sharona Semlali, reported that “The exemplary leadership of the headteacher, in collaboration with a dedicated staff team and a highly ambitious governing body, has successfully raised all aspects of the school including pupils’ achievement from good to outstanding.”

Giving the Quality of Teaching at the school its highest rating Ofsted reported, “The impact of teaching over time is outstanding. Teachers’ high quality written and oral feedback ensures all pupils make rapid progress in all subjects.” The report goes on to say that “All teachers provide excellent opportunities to help pupils learn well together”.

Ofsted found that “The school provides a very creative and stimulating curriculum that encapsulates pupils’ interests and inquisitiveness. Pupils say, ‘Learning is exciting.’”

Under the revised Ofsted framework one of the key judgements is made on the behaviour and safety of pupils. Mr Smith said, “We have children at our school who are excited to learn and show the highest levels of respect and consideration for each other. Our ethos is very much one of belonging, which is shown by the attitudes of our children. The lead inspector reported, “Pupils’ exemplary attitudes to learning and behaviour contribute significantly to pupils making outstanding achievements.”

The school has been commended for its strong leadership and management, “the determined and inspirational leadership of the headteacher, together with a highly ambitious governing body, has successfully secured the school to be outstanding in all areas. The headteacher and governors are fully supported by a dedicated and committed staff team.”

When speaking of the Governors, Ofsted said, “They have a good understanding of how to remunerate teachers’ achievement and are not afraid of tackling any underperformance.” Chair of Governors, Shane Rae, said “The extremely high level of dedication shown by pupils, staff and school leaders comes together at Brize Norton Primary to create the perfect setting for teaching and learning to flourish. As Governors, we know that it’s our teachers and teaching assistants that make all of the difference and we have worked hard to ensure the school is resourced well. We know our teachers are outstanding and are glad Ofsted agrees”

As part of the new inspection framework, parents of children at the school are asking to take an online survey. This survey showed that 100% of parents would recommend the school to others. Of parental support at the school the report stated, “Excellent relationships have been established with parents. A Parent Council is in operation which is chaired by parents and is another way for their views to be heard.”

The school intends to celebrate its success in the coming weeks with an event for the entire school community.