



Queen's Park Primary School

Park Street

Brighton

BN2 0BN

Tel 01273 686822

Head Teacher: Mrs Emma Gale

Deputy Head Teacher: Ms Kirsty Murray

Email: admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Monday 16th October 2023

Dear Queen's Park Primary School Families,

As you know, we welcomed Ofsted inspectors to our school on 13th and 14th September 2023, our first full inspection since 2014, we expect **the full report to be published on the OFSTED website on Wednesday 18th October and** wanted to take the opportunity to inform you of the outcome in advance.

The grades that can be awarded are "Outstanding", "Good", "Requires Improvement" or "Inadequate".

The inspection concluded with a rating of "Requires Improvement" which confirms our own assessment of the situation of the school.

The inspection report clearly validated our strategic direction, confirmed that we are setting the right priorities and praised the considerable progress we have already made in such a short time with the new school leadership in place. This acknowledgment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community, from staff and governors to parents and, most importantly, our children.

The inspectors identified many positive strengths within the school. In particular, the following strengths were noted:

- Pupils are happy here.
- The very youngest children, who have only just started school, have settled well and engage confidently with the many activities on offer. Elsewhere, pupils and staff say that they can see and appreciate the initial improvements being made across the school's provision.
- The expectations of what pupils will learn and how they will behave are increasing following new guidance and training for staff. Staff, many of whom are new to the school, recognise the importance of the current focus on the much-needed improvements.
- Pupils feel safe.
- Pupils move around safely and are typically polite and friendly.
- Playtimes are a hive of happy activity where older pupils support the younger ones as part of the new 'playground leaders' system. Pupils enjoy the opportunities to play games, exercise and socialise.
- Decisive and effective action has recently been taken by the new headteacher and the newly formed leadership team.
- Staff are positive about the results of the recent changes and morale is high. They are keen to work with senior leaders, including the new special educational needs coordinator (SENCo), to ensure that the necessary improvements to support for all pupils are quickly put in place.
- Pupils learn across a broad range of subjects. They are keen to take part in enjoyable activities.





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- The school has made significant changes in the teaching of reading. Staff now have the training and resources they need to prioritise reading for all. They report how this has raised pupils' interest in the books that they read. Many pupils choose to read often.
- In early years, children are excited by books which they eagerly bring to Inspection report: Queen's Park Primary School 13 and 14 September 2023 3 adults to share. Children now get off to a strong start in learning to read because the teaching of phonics is regular and effective.
- Staff across the rest of the school have developed their expertise in supporting those pupils who need additional help. This is beginning to have an impact in helping these pupils to read fluently and with confidence.
- Staff and pupils say that behaviour has improved since the introduction of the new policy. Staff are beginning to apply the strategies that underpin the principles of 'respectful, responsible, safe'
- The school also continues to take action to promote and support regular school attendance.
- Pupils do learn about a range of faiths and develop some understanding of equality. Pupils also enjoy representing the school in sporting tournaments and community events. They know how to keep themselves safe and healthy.
- Parents recognise the recent improvements that have been made.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.
- Specific training has supported the governing body in holding leaders to account for school performance and they have now begun to revise how they support improvements in the school.

It is reassuring to know that the priorities that had already been set for our school development plan fully align with the findings of the Ofsted inspectors, that their assessment has validated the path we have chosen to follow and confirmed that we are focusing on the right areas for improvement and in the right order. As you know, our current priorities are:

- Behaviour
- Quality of Teaching and Learning
- Curriculum Design
- Attendance

Ms Gale has a proven track record of improving schools. When she considered joining Queen's Park school, governors were delighted that she saw the immense potential and the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our children. Mrs. Gale has been clear that she chose to come to Queen's Park Primary School because she knew it needed to embark on a significant improvement journey and is passionate about school improvement.

Everyone at the school is committed to providing the best education for our children. We are determined to see Queen's Park School become a centre of excellence for outstanding educational provision for ALL





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children, and we are confident that this will be reflected in our next Ofsted inspection, which we expect within the next two and half years. The foundations are now in place, and together we have an opportunity to really push the school to deliver the absolute best for our children over the coming months and years.

Your involvement and support play a vital role in this journey. We encourage open dialogue with us, constructive feedback, and active participation from all members of our school community.

Look out for continued information about our progress and opportunities for you to be part of the positive changes that are taking place through our "We're improving" section of the newsletter and regular coffee at the gate sessions.

Please allow us to at this point to express our gratitude to our wonderful staff for their unwavering commitment to our children. We have a talented and passionate team, and their hard work will continue to drive our improvement. We are very proud to be a part of this team and look forward to working alongside you to make Queen's Park Primary School a place of excellence and pride where the provision meets the needs of our children.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us via our school office. Your voice is invaluable in shaping our future.

Governors and the senior leadership team will host a coffee at the gate session on Thursday 19th October 2023 from 7:30am to provide an opportunity for you to discuss the Ofsted inspection findings with us. As always, the senior leadership team will be at the gates at drop-off and pick-up throughout the week.

Thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes,

Emma Gale
Headteacher

Ingrid Laycock
Chair of Governors

