

Issue 64

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# Principal's Post

KEEPING YOU INFORMED FROM MR SPRINGETT-MCHUGH & MRS DRAPER

**We are officially a GOOD school with most areas  
OUTSTANDING!**

Dear Families

WOW! We did it! We have all been waiting so long for this, but at last every single person in the Oxley family can be proud to say we attend a GOOD school with the majority of areas being OUTSTANDING! How good does that feel?

**Oxley Park Academy is a GOOD school!**

With the following areas...

**GOOD** Quality of Education

**GOOD** Early Years

**OUTSTANDING** Leadership

**OUTSTANDING** Personal Development

**OUTSTANDING** Behaviour

The inspection ran over two days with a two-hour telephone discussion the day before. We found the experience to be challenging but an extremely positive one, where we could share and celebrate our wonderful school. The report summarises our school and shows everyone what a wonderful place it is to be and why it is the perfect school to choose! During the inspection, the words used by the inspectors to describe their experience of our school, were simply overwhelming. We don't mind admitting that we both shed tears as the judgments were being finalised at the end of the inspection. We are so passionate about OPA and as a community, you deserve to have a good school. This has been our absolute ambition for you all. Today is the day we have officially achieved this and more! The framework we are judged against is extremely challenging and immediately after a pandemic this is certainly an amazing achievement.

***'Pupils simply love their school!' Ofsted 2022***

What more can we say? This first sentence of the report is the dream of anyone who works in a school or is a parent of a child who attends. To have this said, really sums up the feeling we have had for a very long time, but to have it experienced and validated by official inspectors and documented in this way, is truly special!

**DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE - TOGETHER**

**TWO SITES—ONE HEART, ONE MISSION, ONE SCHOOL**

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***'Pupils, including the very youngest, conduct themselves maturely and responsibly' 'They are excellent role models to others' 'Pupils are happy and feel safe!' Ofsted 2022***

Again, this is what matters! Learning is impossible if our children are worried, nervous, unsure or don't feel safe. Our culture, ethos, environment and most of all, our adults, make sure this is the case. We are ridiculously proud of all our Oxley Parkers and to have them celebrated in this way is just amazing. Our children are simply FAB!

***'Leaders' work to bring about significant improvement at this school has been highly successful' 'They have high ambition and are adamant that every pupil, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, should leave with the confidence to Dream, Believe and Achieve' Ofsted 2022***

Four years ago, we arrived as your new leadership team! We had a hugely ambitious plan for every element of school life at Oxley Park. We worked tirelessly to bring this plan to life and communicate this to all our families, staff, governors, and most of all our children. We are delighted that today this report now shows the plan was ambitious, the plan was exciting, it was the right one and it guided us all to make Oxley the school it is today! Thank you for putting absolute faith and trust in us. Thank you also to the families who have graduated Oxley Park and those that have moved on, this report is for you too! I came to Oxley with a very clear vision and shared this with the governors in my interview many years ago. I am so pleased this vision is more than I could dream of and that so many people in our community are now benefitting from the team's hard work and absolute dedication in making Oxley Park Academy such a special place. To have achieved this after two years of the pandemic and at the end of the most extreme term for our school, says so much about the people in our school!

***'Leaders have designed an aspirational curriculum' 'The curriculum gives teachers clear information on the essential knowledge pupils and children in early years need to learn and the order in which it should be taught.' Ofsted 2022***

The curriculum has been the heart of our focus for the past four years. We focussed on our core subjects to start with – reading, writing and maths which are all now real strengths. From here, we looked at the wider subjects, making sure we have mapped out a really engaging and exciting journey for all children to follow. We are delighted the inspection has recognised all this hard work. We continue to develop our curriculum through enhancements and tweaks, allowing it to evolve over time, adapting to the needs of our children.

***'Staff are adept at identifying pupils with SEND and providing them with the help and resources they need to enable them to learn well.' Ofsted 2022***

We have a wonderful reputation for supporting, guiding, and ensuring all our Special Educational Needs children and those who have disabilities thrive in our school. It is lovely to see our highly skilled team recognised in this way. We work very closely with other agencies, and we always do everything possible to make sure every child has the best possible journey through our school with all the resources they require and deserve.

***'Leaders are clear that reading, 'unlocks opportunities for future success'. Pupils know that reading happens anytime and anywhere. Every corner and corridor at Oxley Park are brimming with exciting and enticing reading areas,' Staff make sure that pupils who find reading difficult, receive the help that they need to catch up quickly.' Ofsted 2022***

The inspectors just loved our reading provision. They loved our reading areas from the café and vending machines to the bath! When talking with the children and observing reading, they could really see why we hold reading central to everything. Our huge investment in books has really proven fruitful where children always have access to new books, are inspired and show a real love of reading in every corner of the school. Our teaching of early reading shone with our phonics being a real strength. Having reading recognised in this way, validates the importance that we place on it.

***'Pupils behave exceptionally well in class and around school. They are highly motivated in lessons and demonstrate positive attitudes to their work.'***

***Ofsted 2022***

From day one of our arrival, we wanted to create a culture of warmth, safety and highly motivated children and adults. To have this described as exceptional just says everything. No matter what time of day, Monday to Friday, anyone can visit our school and see this in practice. This is what makes Oxley Park Academy a truly delightful place to work and learn. It is thanks to the clear vision, expectations, and values we promote every single day. Our children get them, they understand them, and they follow them naturally every day.

***'The school's work to develop pupils' character and prepare pupils for life in modern Britain is exemplary.' 'They (pupils) understand that all people should be treated equally. One pupil said, 'We are the generation who will put a stop to inequality.'*** ***Ofsted 2022***

We love our community, we love our differences, and we love all the different cultures we have in our school. We don't shy away from sharing these differences and the richness of every culture. The thread that runs through all of this is our consistent promotion of British Values and again described as exemplary. The way our children spoke about each other, spoke about those different to themselves, and how they react to others, was just amazing. This shows what a wonderful generation we have developing in front of our eyes. In their own words, 'they are the generation who will put a stop to inequality'. How proud do you feel to read this!?

***'Governors are very ambitious for pupils' academic and social success. They visit the school regularly and provide challenge and support in equal measure. Staff are proud to work at the school. They feel greatly supported by leaders and governors in managing their workload.'*** ***Ofsted 2022***

Governors have fully supported our vision from day one. They recognised the journey ahead for the school and fully got behind the plan. This included financing the plan and ensuring the resources we needed were available to make sure it was a success. Throughout this period, they have regularly challenged us, but in equal measure, supported us to see the plan through. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and committed team of governors. Throughout this journey the working environment changed for every single adult. I have said it many times before how fabulous our staff team are, and I think now after this experience everyone can see. They have worked ridiculously hard; they are so dedicated and as stated in the report they are proud to work in the school.

***'Leaders have developed a culture in which everyone is responsible for safeguarding pupils' 'Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe through the school curriculum.'*** ***Ofsted 2022***

This was our number one priority from day one and will always remain so. Our culture for safeguarding has always been a strength and we are pleased that this again is recognised in the report. Madly, only a week before, we had commissioned an independent safeguarding review. This report was glowing and highlighted so many strengths of the school and the culture we have created. Therefore, going into the Ofsted inspection we felt extremely confident in this area.

Our Next Steps:

***'In a handful of foundation subjects and some areas of learning in early years, teachers move learning on too quickly. They do not carefully check and help pupils embed the essential knowledge. This means that, at times, pupils do not always learn as well as they could. Leaders should continue to provide training to develop teachers' expertise to deliver the curriculum effectively.'*** ***Ofsted 2022***

Our next step was what we already had in place, so the inspection confirmed we were accurate in our judgements. As mentioned earlier, our curriculum is central to everything and is a major undertaking. It is something we constantly work on and will continue to do so in the future. This next step is already happening and is part of our regular professional development.

So, in summary, we are at last validated as a good school! Nothing was a surprise to us; we have made accurate judgements as a team, and we know exactly what we need to do to keep moving forward. To have gained outstanding in three key areas is just beyond our wildest dreams and we are over the moon, not just for ourselves, but for you. This is your school, and you deserve this rating. We want you, like us, to feel ridiculously proud to say you send your children to Oxley Park Academy. We want you to feel confident when talking to perspective parents and we want you to be confident in leaving your most precious human in our hands. We really hope this report confirms all of that for you.

It is time for the community of Oxley Park to stand tall and scream how fabulous we really are! Jump on social media and share this great news and feel confident to tell everyone they should choose OPA without hesitation. We are so honoured and humbled to serve this wonderful community and we are so happy you all now have the school validated at the level we all know it deserves.

Thank you so much for having faith and trust in us. While we are in post, we will always do our utmost to lead this school to the absolute best of our abilities.

With our very best wishes

**Mr N Springett-McHugh**  
Executive Principal

**Mrs K Draper**  
Associate Principal