



Dear Parents/Carers

March 30th 2022

RE: Hallam Fields Ofsted outcome

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

At the beginning of this Spring Term Hallam Fields Primary school was visited by Ofsted to carry out an inspection of its provision. Shortly, Ofsted's report will be published on its website and we wanted to provide our families with some context regarding Ofsted's reflections following their visit.

Firstly, we would like to emphasise how incredibly proud we are of all of our children and staff at Hallam Fields. Hallam Fields is a happy, hard-working school that embodies our 6 Rs. The inspectors saw first-hand our resilient, respectful, reflective, resourceful, responsible and reciprocal learners: children were overwhelming polite and courteous and able to maturely explain the positive educational experiences that they enjoy. The school's extremely strong culture shone through and we were pleased that the inspectors saw the nurturing ethos at Hallam Fields.

The inspectors were able to recognise some of the huge strength within the school and they describe this in their final report. The behaviour and attitudes demonstrated by the children were typically excellent during the inspection and, of upmost importance, the children are safe at Hallam Fields and enjoy a diverse community with positive relationships. It is an environment that is free from bullying and the children understand the importance of equality.

In addition to this, in many subjects, including in mathematics, the inspection team understood that there is a robust curriculum in place; the curriculum is planned so children learn well, remember well and achieve over time.

Ofsted saw the ambitious drive that leaders have for all children at the school and identified that the provision for Early Years and for children with special educational needs/disabilities was a strength of the school.

There is, however, unfortunately some disappointing and dissatisfactory reflections recorded in the final report alongside these positives.

Within the landscape of the Covid-19 pandemic, school leaders, teachers and other staff have worked incredibly hard to work with their children and families to recover from nursery and school closures and compensate for lost learning time.

Like other schools nationally, leaders at Hallam Fields, with support from the Lionheart Trust, researched evidence-led approaches to the initial teaching of reading. Based on this research and initial assessments of children's starting points the teachers have spent a longer period of time on the first stage of learning to read.

This approach has been challenged in the report, but unfortunately has not be contextualised in a clear way.

During inspection, there was also some questions posed regarding curriculum planning and these comments are reflected in the report in relation to both leaders and teachers. In this case, we understand that there is still work to do to ensure that all lessons and topics are sequenced more carefully and that the principles we have established in the core subjects extend to all the foundation subjects more robustly and we have taken action to tackle this.

Despite highly effective safeguarding procedures, a happy and inclusive school community and strength in core subjects including mathematics as well as recognised strength in school governance, the current Ofsted framework





HALLAM FIELDS PRIMARY

Lionheart Educational Trust

Hallam Fields Primary School
Long Meadow Way, Birstall, Leicestershire, LE4 3LL

0116 267 0550
office@hallamfields.org.uk
www.hallamfields.org.uk

Executive Headteacher Chelsea Williams
Head of School Anna Stewart

defines the *Quality of Education* as an overarching judgement, holding more weight than other aspects of the framework.

The lead inspector decided that on balance, considering the approach to reading and queries about curriculum planning and delivery, that Hallam Fields *'requires improvement'*.

The report can be read in full on the Ofsted website from Monday 4th April. However, we have attached the report for you to read and digest prior to Monday. We fully appreciate your investment in your child's education and that as parents and carers you may share our disappointment and have some questions you would like to ask regarding this outcome for the school.

To allow for this we are very happy to dedicate specific time, to enable you to do this and for the school and trust leaders to explore our reflections and explain some of the findings. We would like to explain our reading rationale in detail and share our curriculum focused improvement plan.

We will host parent forums at the school on the following date; Tuesday 5th April and would welcome your attendance in order for us to reassure you that Hallam Fields is a school with many strengths and to share our plans to address key areas to improve moving forwards.

Year Group	Date	OFSTED Parent Forum
EYFS/Y1	5 th April	4.15 - 5.00pm
Y2/Y3		5.15 - 6.00pm
Y4		6.15 - 7.00pm

Please contact the school office to confirm your attendance at the forums, you can do this via email or via telephone. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate children during the forums so ask that you do not bring them with you. We will be talking to all children in school in the appropriate contexts.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your continued support for the staff, children and community of Hallam Fields.

Kind regards

Ms Williams

Executive Headteacher

Mrs Stewart

Head of School

