



HARWOOD MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Orchard Gardens

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Headteacher

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OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT APRIL 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, in April we had a two-day visit from Ofsted – this consisted of 3 inspectors on day one of the inspection, followed by 2 inspectors on day 2. I am delighted to share with you our full inspection report card which arrived yesterday and is attached with this letter.

Harwood Meadows has met the EXPECTED STANDARD in **all** areas of the inspection framework. Ofsted describe the 'Expected Standard' as *'a high standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve'*.

A Shift in Expectations

Ofsted has made a number of changes to how schools are inspected. It no longer uses 'Outstanding', 'Good' or 'Requires Improvement'. One of the biggest shifts is that the grade 'Expected' is now much harder to achieve than the previous grade of 'Good'.

If a school receives 'Expected', this is something to celebrate – it means that the school is meeting a very high bar and inspectors were at pains to remind senior leaders of this throughout the inspection.

[A parent guide to the new inspections is available to watch here.](#)

This rise in challenge is partly due to a move away from a 'best fit' approach (where inspectors looked at the overall picture) to a 'secure fit' model, which means that schools are expected to meet all parts of the criteria in full. As a result, direct comparison between a previous 'Good' and a current 'Expected' is not always appropriate; they are based on different criteria, different expectations and a higher standard of evidence.

During the grading discussions with inspectors, the inspectors spoke very highly of the school and the staff, recognising that we have made excellent progress in improving standards since our last inspection.

As in all Ofsted inspections, schools are given areas where improvements can be made, which I have included in this letter. However, before this I would like to celebrate some of the positive aspects of the school that the inspection report has highlighted:

- A broad and ambitious curriculum which is well planned and taught.
- Pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education.
- Pupils behave well, show respect for others and this contributes to a calm and purposeful learning environment.
- Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are well supported and able to access the curriculum successfully.
- Provision of high-quality pastoral support and placing a strong emphasis on pupils' emotional wellbeing.

Giving Children Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly

Harwood Meadows Community Primary School

- Reading is recognised as a key strength.
- Harwood Meadows is a friendly, nurturing school and children speak positively about the care, support and opportunities that are available to them
- Strong support for pupils' personal development and inclusion.

There are three areas which Ofsted have identified as next steps. Firstly, inspectors saw great examples of the work we are doing to develop writing across school and noted that we could improve this area further by consistently using agreed approaches across school. Secondly, Inspectors recognised that, whilst we successfully identify the barriers for disadvantaged children and implement appropriate support, we could further improve how we evaluate the impact of this provision. Finally, whilst recognising that children in the early years make secure progress, it was felt that interactions with children during play could be further improved.

Inspectors were very complimentary about the children's behaviour during the inspection, noting that behaviour is calm and orderly around school and that there is a real focus on learning.

The Harwood Meadows' staff have been amazing in demonstrating their everyday work to the inspection team. They deserve a huge thank you for all that they do to support our children - they really are a fantastic team.

The children were also amazing during the inspection process - they spoke with confidence and demonstrated their positive values, mutual respect towards each other and staff along with their love of learning.

I would finally like to thank you for the positive feedback that many of you shared via the parent survey and when speaking with inspectors during our Ofsted Inspection. The feedback about Harwood Meadows was overwhelmingly positive and inspectors shared with us many of the positive comments that were received from parents.

I hope you enjoy reading the report and sharing with us the excellent work of our fantastic school.

Kind regards,



Julian Bevan
Headteacher