



10th July 2024

Knaphill Lower School – Ofsted Inspection Final Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to write to you today to share the final Ofsted Report after our Inspection on 11th and 12th June 2024. The outcomes of this inspection now rate our overall effectiveness as **Good**, with **Good** judgements for all areas of the inspection.

However, for me, the content of the report is more important than any overall judgements, and the report itself only serves to prove the success of what the Knaphill team has relentlessly worked towards since December 2021. Since officially becoming the Headteacher of Knaphill Lower School in April 2022, I have been truly privileged to work among a group of committed and determined staff, who have given everything to improve the offer for our children. The journey has not always been easy, as like all schools, we have weathered outside factors. However with great resilience, each and every person at KLS has gone above and beyond to ensure that the school got better. We have worked as a team, with good humour and much love, to move the school forward.

There are several strengths that are recognised in the report, but I have to highlight some key achievements.

- The school fosters a strong sense of belonging for pupils. This helps to create an inclusive environment where pupils and staff feel valued.
- They have developed a well-sequenced curriculum which defines what pupils will learn throughout their time at the school.
- Children in the early years get off to a flying start. There has been careful thought about what children need for the next stage of their education and how they will be supported to achieve this.
- Beyond the early years, adults use successful strategies to check how well pupils have recalled previous learning, using this information to reshape lessons.
- Reading is given the highest priority. The school describes this as a 'gateway' skill, since being able to read helps pupils to access other areas of the curriculum. Staff support pupils to learn to read quickly. This begins as soon as children start in the early years.
- There are high expectations for behaviour throughout the school.

Although I am incredibly proud of what this team has managed to achieve, we are not a school that sits still. From the moment the inspection was completed in June, we moved to the next era of development for Knaphill Lower School, and progress continues.



Heading into the next academic year, we will be working towards the next steps for improvement as identified in the report:

- Addressing historic weaknesses in the curriculum that have led to some pupils having gaps in their knowledge in some wider curriculum subjects.
 - Embedding the curriculum and further enhancing curriculum plans.
 - Developing some subjects further – including art, music and Forest School.
 - Making the learning journey clearer in individual subject books.
- Ensure that staff feel confident in making appropriate adaptations to the curriculum for pupils with SEND, so that every child is supported to make good academic progress.
 - Further INSET training (September) and continued training during the year for adaptive curriculum teaching. This will be based on teachers responding to learning and making specific adjustments to meet children’s individual needs. For example, the consistent use of task boards to break learning tasks into smaller steps.
 - Ensuring that we continue to use pupil voice to better understand experiences of children with SEND.

As well as recognising the incredible work of the staff at KLS, I would also like to thank all of our children and families for being part of our community, and for your continued support along the way. I am excited to see where we go next as a school, and I look forward to continuing our journey together.

Kind regards,

Vicky Harbridge

