

Inspection of Bankside Primary School

Shepherds Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS8 5AW

Inspection dates:	4 and 5 February 2025
The quality of education	Requires improvement
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Requires improvement
Leadership and management	Requires improvement
Early years provision	Requires improvement
Previous inspection grade	Good

What is it like to attend this school?

This school is a welcoming and friendly place for pupils. They feel, and are, safe. Strong relationships between staff and pupils are evident across the school. The school has established clear processes to work with parents and carers prior to pupils joining the school. The 'Birth to Bankside' programme enables parents and children to become familiar with the school from an early stage. Consequently, children settle quickly into the early years. A significant number of pupils arrive at the school at different times of the year. They are welcomed by their peers and soon make friends.

The school has worked to improve pupils' behaviour. The school has ensured that expectations are clear for pupils and staff to understand. Consequently, incidents of poor behaviour have significantly reduced. Pupils move around school calmly. They play well with each other at playtimes. Pupils behave well in class. They sometimes become less engaged when work in lessons is too easy or too difficult.

The school is going through a significant period of change and improvement. Newly established leaders are resolute in their ambition to provide a high-quality education for pupils. Pupils' achievement in national tests in recent years has been too low. Pupils are benefitting from an improved curriculum and greater ambition but there is still some variation in the quality of education that they receive.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The school's curriculum is broad and ambitious. Some subjects are established. Others are less well developed. The school has ensured that the curriculum is appropriately sequenced. It has broken down the skills that pupils must learn. In less developed subjects, the school has not precisely identified the important knowledge that pupils must learn. This makes it difficult for teachers to prioritise what pupils must be taught. Within lessons, teachers do not consistently explain new concepts clearly. On occasion, they provide pupils with too much information. This prevents pupils from understanding clearly and using and applying what they have learned fully.

The school supports pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in a variety of ways. Pupils who access the Rainbow Room are taught a bespoke curriculum. The school has a clear understanding of the needs of these pupils. It provides bespoke learning opportunities that support their individual learning and development needs well. Within classes, pupils with SEND actively participate in lessons. The school has established ways to identify pupils' individual needs. However, it does not consistently ensure that steps to support pupils' learning are precise enough. This makes it difficult for the school to evaluate the progress that pupils with SEND make in their learning.

The school has implemented a consistent approach to the teaching of phonics. Staff provide regular opportunities for children in the early years to develop their communication, language and vocabulary. Children in the early years enjoy listening to, and participating in, stories, rhymes and songs. Children learn the sounds that letters

make from the beginning of their time in Reception. Pupils learn to use their knowledge of phonics to help them to read and write an increasing range of sentences. Pupils read books that are matched to their phonics knowledge. This helps them learn to read with fluency and accuracy. The school has recently updated and replenished the selection of books available to pupils. This now includes books from a variety of cultures and genres. This supports pupils well to develop a love of reading.

Children in the early years engage positively in a range of age-appropriate activities. Staff have established strong relationships with children. This helps children to become confident and independent learners. Sometimes, staff do not extend children's learning consistently well. This hampers children's progression through the curriculum.

Visitors to school, including community police officers, teach pupils about how to keep safe, including online. Pupils value these opportunities. Older pupils speak confidently about what they have learned recently about knife crime, smoking and vaping. Some pupils do not demonstrate the same depth of knowledge about growing up in modern Britain. They have a limited understanding of fundamental British values and protected characteristics.

Over time, pupils' rates of absence have been significantly above national figures. The school has implemented rigorous processes to check that pupils attend school regularly. These are beginning to positively impact on pupils' rates of attendance and punctuality. However, the school recognises that there is still work to do.

The governing board has also been through a period of change. It has focused its actions on ensuring that the school site is a safe place for pupils and staff to be. Governors have overseen the development of the school's curriculum. They recognise the need to establish systems to check that the actions taken by the school are having the intended impact. Most staff consider the changes in school to be positive. However, some are concerned about the impact on their workload. The school does not have a clear process for leaders, including those with responsibility for governance, to check that its actions are improving staff workload and well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- The school has not clearly defined the specific knowledge that pupils must learn across the curriculum as they progress through the school. It is difficult for teachers to accurately identify and address pupils' gaps in learning. The school should ensure that

its curriculum clearly identifies the knowledge that pupils must learn alongside the skills.

- The school does not carefully check that the changes it makes are having the intended impact. Weaknesses are not consistently or precisely identified. As a consequence, the school is not clear about whether actions taken to improve the school are working, or what the consequences are on staff workload and well-being. The school should further refine its strategies to check the impact of its actions on pupils' learning and staff workload.
- The school's strategies to improve attendance are not successfully reaching some pupils well enough. Some pupils do not attend school regularly enough. They miss out on important learning opportunities. The school should continue its work with families to improve pupils' rates of attendance.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the [definition of children in need of help and protection](#); pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's [pupil premium funding](#) (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).

School details

Unique reference number	107901
Local authority	Leeds
Inspection number	10346206
Type of school	Primary
School category	Foundation
Age range of pupils	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	701
Appropriate authority	Local authority
Chair of governing body	Adam Brett
Headteacher	Victoria Broughton
Website	www.banksideprimary.org
Dates of previous inspection	28 and 29 January 2020, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The headteacher started in September 2023.
- The school runs a breakfast club.
- The school's nursery includes provision for two-year-olds.
- The school does not currently use any alternative provision.
- A children's centre operates on the same site as the school. The headteacher is responsible for this provision.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. During a graded inspection, we grade the school for each of our key judgements (quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development; and leadership and management) and for any relevant provision judgement (early years and/or sixth form provision). Schools receiving a graded inspection from September 2024, will not be given an overall effectiveness grade.

- Inspections are a point-in-time evaluation about the quality of a school's education provision.
- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors spoke to the headteacher, deputy headteacher and assistant headteachers.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading, mathematics, science and art and design. For each deep dive, inspectors held discussions about the curriculum, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. Inspectors also discussed the curriculum in some other subjects.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, inspectors: reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.
- Inspectors spoke to parents at the beginning and end of the school day. They also reviewed responses to Ofsted's parent survey, Ofsted Parent View.
- Inspectors met with staff and reviewed responses to Ofsted's staff survey.
- The lead inspector held separate meetings with representatives from the school's governing board and the local authority improvement partner.

Inspection team

Matthew Harrington, lead inspector	His Majesty's Inspector
James Canniford	Ofsted Inspector
Alison Black	Ofsted Inspector
David Taylor	Ofsted Inspector

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