

Inspection of a good school: Little Houghton Church of England Primary

Lodge Close, Lodge Road, Little Houghton, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN7 1AF

Inspection date:

24 April 2024

Outcome

Little Houghton Church of England Primary continues to be a good school.

What is it like to attend this school?

Little Houghton Church of England Primary School is a warm and nurturing school. The school has a strong sense of community. Its Christian values and curriculum principles of growth, community, spirituality and environment run through every aspect of the school. Pupils are polite and courteous. They are well mannered and respectful to each other and adults. They are happy, enjoy learning and show pride in their achievements. As one pupil shared: 'At this school, you get to learn a lot while also having great fun!'

The school's curriculum is ambitious. Staff have high expectations of all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). One pupil summed up many when they said: 'Teachers encourage us. They tell us that if we can't do something, it's actually that we can't do it YET!'

Pupils are conscientious in lessons. They show sustained concentration and enthusiasm. They enjoy learning. The school helps pupils to think about their behaviour and, in the event of mistakes, how to put things right. Those that need extra help to manage their feelings and emotions receive appropriate and effective support.

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

Children get off to a strong start in the early years. The environment is well resourced and organised. Children enjoy exploring the provision and learning through play. Children concentrate for sustained periods of time and show high levels of independence. Staff prompt children's thinking by skilfully asking questions and helping children to extend their vocabulary. Staff are nurturing and children are happy. Children are well prepared for key stage 1.

The school has prioritised early reading. Staff are well trained to deliver the phonics programme. They regularly check on how well pupils learn and remember sounds. Any

pupils that begin to fall behind get the help needed to catch up. Reading books are closely matched to the sounds they learned in lessons. This results in pupils quickly becoming fluent and confident readers. Teachers encourage pupils to use 'posh reading voices' to aid reading with expression. The school has introduced initiatives to develop pupils' love of reading. The weekly reading cafe is well attended. However, beyond phonics, the reading curriculum is not fully planned and sequenced. The curriculum does not make clear enough what should be taught and when.

Pupils use mathematical vocabulary confidently and accurately. They can also explain the methods they use to solve problems. Pupils with SEND receive the appropriate support they need to access the same curriculum as their peers.

Across the majority of subjects, the curriculum is ambitious and well planned. The history curriculum is of a particularly high standard. Leaders have written a scheme based on two key drivers of 'legacy' and 'lifestyle' – all history units are linked to these drivers. Leaders have considered the development of pupils' chronological understanding and the growth of their historical vocabulary. Lessons show that pupils have frequent opportunities to recall their prior learning. As a result, pupils can talk about their learning in detail.

The school prepares pupils well for life in modern Britain. Pupils learn about equality. They value diversity and difference. They are knowledgeable about fundamental British values and the different protected characteristics. They know why these are important. Pupils benefit from a wide range of clubs and activities that help to nurture their talents and interests. Pupils are eager to take on a wide range of responsibilities, including being anti-bullying ambassadors and members of the sports crew. Pupils also enjoy participating in charity work.

Staff are positive about working at the school. They feel well supported with both workload and well-being. The school works effectively with other local schools to provide staff training and development. These opportunities are highly valued by staff. The governing body works closely with the school to fulfil its statutory duties.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Beyond phonics, the school's reading curriculum sets out end points. However, these require further refinement to ensure that learning always builds on what pupils know. It does not consistently identify what should be taught at each stage so pupils' learning does not always build incrementally. Leaders should ensure that the reading

curriculum makes clear what pupils are expected to know at each stage of their education so that pupils know and remember more of the reading curriculum.

Background

When we have judged a school to be good, we will then normally go into the school about once every four years to confirm that the school remains good. This is called an ungraded inspection, and it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. We do not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection. However, if we find evidence that a school would now receive a higher or lower grade, then the next inspection will be a graded inspection, which is carried out under section 5 of the Act. Usually this is within one to two years of the date of the ungraded inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will deem the ungraded inspection a graded inspection immediately.

This is the second ungraded inspection since we judged the school to be good in January 2015.

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	122025
Local authority	West Northamptonshire
Inspection number	10324107
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	83
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Linda Browett
Headteacher	Carolyn Fairbrother
Website	www.lhcep.co.uk
Date of previous inspection	31 October 2018, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The school makes use of one registered alternative education provider.
- The school is part of the Diocese of Peterborough. The most recent section 48 inspection of the school, which is an inspection of the school's religious character, took place on 25 May 2016.

Information about this inspection

- Inspections are a point-in-time judgement about the quality of a school's education provision.
- This was the first routine inspection since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- The inspection team carried out deep dives in reading, mathematics and history. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with leaders, visited lessons, spoke with teachers and pupils, and reviewed samples of pupils' work.

- The lead inspector listened to some pupils read to a familiar adult.
- Inspectors met with leaders responsible for behaviour, personal development, early years and the provision for pupils with SEND.
- 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 reviewed a range of documents, including the school's self-evaluation and improvement plan. The inspector met with members of the local governing body.
- Inspectors met with the school improvement partner from the local authority.
- Inspectors considered the responses to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Ofsted Parent View, including any free-text comments, as well as the results of Ofsted's survey for school staff.

Inspection team

Luella Dhoore, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Shaun Carter

His Majesty's Inspector

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