



Shirley Manor

Primary Academy

Working together to achieve excellence

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware Shirley Manor was inspected by Ofsted on 5th and 6th November 2024.

Whilst you will see from the attached report that the school is judged as 'Require Improvement' for the quality of education and Early Years, the report acknowledges, thanks to the support of the Family of Learning Trust, a lot of progress that has been made since the summer term 2024. The inspection team recognised the sense of urgency the Trust and current leadership have in driving school improvement and the impact they have had in a short period of time and have judged leadership and management to be 'Good' which is extremely rare when the quality of education is not considered good. Ofsted inspected, **"New leaders have introduced significant changes to the school. The rate of change has accelerated since September 2024. Governors and trustees have an accurate view of the areas of the school that need continued development."**

One of the main reasons for not being good yet is that a new phonics programme and a wider curriculum covering the wider curriculum is in the process of being implemented. There was some evidence of this is starting to have an impact on children, although there has not yet been enough time to see the full impact of the changes we have made. Many of the children have gaps from before that are now being addressed. Unfortunately, this is not an overnight fix. We are however committed to ensuring that all children get the support they need to close any gaps and succeed in school.

What we now need as a school is to continue to work at the pace we are doing to translate this to actual results at the end of each phase. Once our curriculum development and strategies have been embedded, we will see the impact on pupil results.

You will also note positive comments about how behaviour has improved – the inspection team told governors and our senior leadership team that **"pupils generally behave well in lessons and are eager to learn."** The lead inspector commented that behaviour issues are now effectively addressed when they do occur and that we provide high quality pastoral provision to our children. He also said that we provide rich experiences to our children through our extra-curricular activities. We fully agree with the improvement areas identified for school – we are already addressing these priorities and they formed an integral part of our school's development plan that we shared with inspectors. We will now be reflecting on how best to continue to drive change forwards at Shirley Manor to ensure that all our children receive the best so that they can be the best. We are extremely proud of them I am sure that you are too.

I would personally like to thank you for your support during the inspection and since I took up my post in September. The inspectors fed back on the positive comments from parents/carers, who have recognised that changes are happening at Shirley Manor. It is very much appreciated and I look forward to continuing to work with you to lead the school forwards into the future.

Yours faithfully

Miss Lucy Bailey