



'Achieving excellence through the pursuit of good'

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BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust

'That they may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss
Co-Chairs of Governors: Mr. Ben Jenkins and Dr. Marina De Vos

13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to everyone in our school community, we hope you had a wonderful Christmas break. We are looking forward to another exciting term ahead!

Ofsted Report

We are pleased to be able to share the Ofsted Report from our inspection in November 2022 which has judged the school as **'Good in all areas'**. We are proud of the many positives in the report, which justify much celebration, and we remain intensely ambitious for the children of Bathwick. We continuously strive to deliver the highest standard of education for our children.

The recommendations contained within the report align with the focus areas of our School Development Plan (SDP) 2022-2023. This supports the feedback received during the assessment that leaders have an accurate view of the school. With this validation, we can confidently continue taking the steps required to meet the objectives we have set, with the Bathwick child at the centre of everything we do.

As well as highlighting the road ahead, it is appropriate that we should pause and allow ourselves the opportunity to reflect on all the positive observations and comments contained within the report, of which we are very pleased to say there are many!

Parent / Carer Response

Firstly, we are extremely grateful for all 126 responses received from our parent / carer community which, together with the Inspectors' interactions during the assessment, supported the heart-warming conclusion, **"Pupils and staff are proud of their school and parents are overwhelmingly positive"**.

The very first paragraph of the report encapsulates some of the special qualities of Bathwick, **"Pupils are valued and their differences celebrated. As a result, they enjoy coming to school and they attend well."**

Bathwick Curriculum

Our curriculum has been the subject of intense focus (**"great determination"**) since the revised Ofsted framework was introduced in 2019 (see 'The Bathwick Curriculum' page on our school website) and notwithstanding the disruption of the impact of Covid-19, it is very encouraging to see this work recognised by glowing comments around the effectiveness of Reading and Maths (which have each been targeted in SDPs). The curriculum is well sequenced, delivered effectively and matched well to other areas. The adoption of the Read, Write, Inc. and White Rose maths schemes has proved to be successful. As set out in our SDP, we continue to refine and further embed the ambitious Bathwick Curriculum.

To deliver the inspirational and creative curriculum we strive for, bought-in curriculum 'schemes' are not the answer for every subject. Leaders are working with staff to support professional development that builds on teachers' expertise, so that high quality teaching is further embedded to ensure every child succeeds.



The Children's Society
Gold Award
2010



A Bathwick education focuses on enthusing the children and their attitude to learning, instilling a love of learning. This enthusiasm for learning was clearly in evidence for the Inspectors and is rightly celebrated in the Report.

“Pupils are enthusiastic about learning different subjects”

“Pupils are curious and interested in what they are learning”

“Pupils talk enthusiastically about their learning”

This is testament to the children’s brilliantly inquisitive and energetic minds and also the ability of teachers and teaching assistants to provide a stimulating learning environment coupled with an engaging curriculum.

We are also very pleased to see recorded in the Report that this enthusiasm is supported by the school’s high ambition for the children, **“Staff have high expectations for behaviour and pupils’ attitudes.”** We believe this combination of a strong curriculum across all subjects, teaching to the top of each child’s potential, together with high behavioural expectations and enthusiasm for learning gives every child the chance to flourish at Bathwick.

Inclusivity

As well as having high expectations for every child, the Report accurately reflects that Bathwick St Mary is an inclusive and nurturing school. **“Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and pupils who speak English as an additional language learn well here.”** The role of Blue Hats is referenced as, **“Older pupils welcome the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and to support younger children at play.”**

The atmosphere in the school was also a positive feature. Inspectors noted that pupil achievements are praised and celebrated regularly and there were real strengths for children’s personal development. Children feel safe and valued as part of the school and it was recognised that bullying is not tolerated and there are effective systems in place.

Overall

Mr. Purkiss and the Governing Committee are proud of the inclusive, aspirational and caring school Bathwick is. There are always things to work on and develop and we look forward to continuing to build on the positives reflected in the Report and doing all that we can, working together as school leaders, staff, governors, volunteers, our supportive parent community and the Trust, to ensure that each and every child flourishes at our school and is ready for the next stage of their education.

Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust CEO Nikki Edwards said, “We are so pleased the inspection team recognised the work going on at Bathwick St Mary and leaders know their school well and are continuing to drive Bathwick St. Mary forward.”

School / PTA / Governor session

Finally, can we please remind the school community that there will be an opportunity to share how the Report’s recommendations link with our SDP and our 5 Year Strategy at the next School/PTA/Governor session on 7 February 2023 (7pm – 8:30pm). Can we please encourage as many of you as possible to attend these sessions as they are an opportunity to hear about the work of the school and the fantastic projects being undertaken by the PTA.

Marina and Ben are always happy to hear from parents and carers, so please feel free to contact us in person, or by letter or email if you have any questions or comments about the report or the school in general (office@bsm.bwmat.org).

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Purkiss
Headteacher

Ben Jenkins and Marina De Vos
Co-Chairs of Governors

