



Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School

Royle Avenue, Glossop, Derbyshire. SK13 7RD

Head teacher: Mrs E Bland

Tel: 01457 852635

Email: info@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk

www.dukenorfolk.co.uk

From tiny acorns, great forests grow

Monday 8th November 2021

OFSTED Report

Dear Parents/Carers, children and staff,

I write in response to the Ofsted report dated 5th and 6th October 2021, and on behalf of the Governing Body, [which can be found here](#).

As you will be aware from the report, the overall judgement was that Dukes remains a 'Requires Improvement' school. Whilst this is disappointing, as we (the Governing Body) do not feel it fully reflects the improvements made to the school and the energy/commitment shown by the school staff, we find that the recommendations made by the Inspectors are both useful and fair. In fact, the main development points are already contained within our School Improvement Plan, and so are issues that the school is already working on. We feel that this is a testament to the quality of the leadership and management within the school (which was also rated 'Good' by Inspectors).

In terms of specific judgements, there is much to celebrate as we have moved from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good' across the majority of all areas since our last inspection in 2017, except for Quality of Education (where the judgement of 'Requires Improvement' overrides all others). Of particular note is the improvement made to our EYFS provision where, at the last inspection, we were heavily criticised.

In terms of what the school needs to improve, there are three key areas that require our focus (see below). As mentioned earlier, there are already strategies and plans in place to address to these issues, and we have full confidence that the school will rise to the challenge.

1. **Reading/Phonics** – the school has recently invested heavily in a new approach to phonics, which is in an early phase of implementation, but is already improving our phonics offering. We have also invested in a new library and books, and so we expect to quickly see evidence of improvements.



2. **Curriculum** – the school implemented a new curriculum in 2019 and was making great progress until the Covid pandemic hit. Whilst it was right that the school shifted its focus to a ‘catch up’ curriculum (where it sought to ensure that knowledge in core subject areas was both maintained and any gaps addressed), we are now in a strong position to reconfirm our vision and expectations, alongside monitoring progress on the back of the Inspectors’ feedback.

3. **Subject Leadership** – the continuing professional development of staff is something that the Governing Body has been fully supportive of and we have full confidence in staff to continue to develop their skills and experience in their areas of curriculum responsibility.

We can expect a monitoring visit from Ofsted within the next 12-30 months, during which our progress against the above areas will be assessed. In the event that we are deemed to have made sufficient progress, there is then the opportunity for our overall grade to be reassessed (and improved). We have full confidence in the leadership team that this will prove to be the case, as the foundations for improvements are already in place.

I would like to finish by taking the opportunity to thank all of the staff at Dukes for their untiring commitment and professionalism. They should be very proud of their achievements and we are very optimistic about the progress that will be made in time for our next inspection.

Kind regards

Peter Parkin-Child
Chair of Governors

