

Wilberfoss C of E Primary School

Executive Head: Mr Kris Henderson Head of School: Mrs M Brennan

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am incredibly proud to be writing to you following our recent Ofsted inspection and to share the findings of the report with our school community. The inspection gave us an opportunity to showcase what makes Wilberfoss such a special place, and I am delighted that the report reflects so much of what we see every day. We haven't had an Ofsted since 2017, and how the school has changed in that time is something we all should be proud of - it is a team effort. The gradings are:

Ofsted Report – Headline Grades Wilberfoss CE Primary		
Exceptional An outstanding level of practice	No areas were judged as Exceptional.	★
Strong Standard Excellent, consistent practice that makes a real difference	✓ Attendance & Behaviour ✓ Inclusion ✓ Personal Development & Wellbeing	📊
Expected Standard A high standard, meeting all requirements	✓ Achievement ✓ Curriculum & Teaching ✓ Early Years ✓ Leadership & Governance	👥
Needs attention Areas where improvement is needed	No areas were judged as Needs Attention.	⚙️
Urgent improvement Areas where rapid improvement is needed	No areas were judged as Urgent Improvement.	⚠️
Safeguarding Our safeguarding arrangements were also evaluated. Safeguarding Standards Met The inspection confirmed that the safeguarding standards are met and pupils are safe, well cared for and feel safe in school.		

You may be aware that single word judgements no longer exist, instead replaced with the headings above. The majority of schools will now have areas that need attention, this is to be expected. For our school, to have no areas in that band and to have three areas in the strong standard is an amazing achievement. Truth be told, the inspection team were very challenging, as it should be, however I believe our strengths extend across all aspects of this framework, but we are happy to celebrate the key findings.

Most importantly, inspectors saw what we all know: our school is a caring, inclusive community where children are happy, safe and valued. One of the comments that resonated most strongly with me was that *"Pupils feel a deep sense of belonging and pride at this school. They enjoy attending and engage well in their learning. Pupils are greeted by adults who care about them."* That sense of belonging is at the heart of everything we do, and it is something we work hard to nurture every single day.

The report recognises a number of significant strengths, with **Attendance and Behaviour**, **Inclusion**, and **Personal Development and Wellbeing** all judged to be at a **Strong Standard**. Personally, I am especially proud of the strong standard awarded for Inclusion. This is one of the most challenging judgements to secure because it asks inspectors to look beyond academic outcomes and consider how successfully a school meets the needs of every child, particularly those who may face additional barriers to learning. Early national data suggests that only around half of schools inspected achieve the expected standard for inclusion and far fewer achieving strong . Therefore, this judgement places Wilberfoss amongst a relatively small group of schools recognised for particularly effective inclusive practice. It reflects the dedication of our staff, the support of our families and, most importantly, our belief that every child deserves to **believe, grow and achieve**



I was also pleased that inspectors recognised the exceptional character of our pupils. They described their manners as 'exemplary' and highlighted the positive relationships that exist between children and staff. Anyone who visits our school will quickly see the kindness, respect and enthusiasm that our children bring each day, and I know you will be as proud of this recognition as we are.

The report also celebrates the strong partnership we have with our families. Inspectors recognised that we know our families well and work together to support children both academically and personally. They noted that parents value the education and care their children receive and that positive relationships between home and school contribute to the success of our pupils. Thank you for the trust you place in us and the support you give to your children and to the school.

Inspectors recognised the strong outcomes achieved by our pupils, particularly in reading, writing and mathematics, where attainment continues to be above national averages – indeed as previously mentioned, we have been in the top 3% nationally of schools for the last two years. They highlighted the high value we place on reading and praised our ambitious curriculum and the rich range of experiences we provide through trips, clubs, leadership opportunities, sport, music and the arts. These opportunities help children develop not only academically but also as confident, compassionate and well-rounded individuals.

As with all inspections, Ofsted identified areas where we can continue to improve. We welcome this feedback. The next steps focus on ensuring the curriculum is delivered consistently well across every subject and year group, further strengthening language development in our Early Years provision and refining our evaluation processes even further so that our strengths become even more consistently embedded across the school and we are graded as strong in all areas.

Both Mrs Brennan and I would like to thank our incredibly dedicated staff team, governors and colleagues across The Education Alliance for their hard work and commitment. We have built a very special team that enjoys coming to work each day is deeply committed to helping every child flourish, succeed and realise their potential.

Most of all, I would like to thank our children, past and present. They represent the school wonderfully, both throughout this inspection and in their secondary schools/colleges - they demonstrate exactly why Wilberfoss is such a special place to learn and grow and they carry it with them beyond our door.

We are proud of what has been recognised, but we are equally excited about the future. Together, with the continued support of our families and community, we will continue to build on these strengths and provide the very best opportunities for every child.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our school family.

Best wishes,



Kris Henderson
Executive Headteacher

