

22nd November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find the attached report following our Ofsted inspection last month.

Inspectors have judged our school's overall effectiveness to be: **Requires Improvement**.

We recognise that parts of our provision need to be better and have already made a start on key areas for improvement. However, we know there is further to go and we'll use this report alongside our school improvement planning to ensure we make the progress we need to for the children of our community.

The inspection process has evidenced the following positive aspects of the school's provision. (The below are direct quotes from the inspection report):

- Pupils say they feel safe in school. They enjoy being with their friends and they like their teachers. They accept that everyone is different. They understand that some of their peers may need additional support to regulate their feelings. In the words of one pupil: 'We are all one community.'
- Pupils enjoy participating in lunchtime activities. They like the different games the staff provide. They said that this has reduced poor behaviour and has made their social times calmer and more purposeful. Pupils told inspectors that bullying does happen, but there will always be adults in school who will sort it out.
- Most parents felt that their children's development is well supported in school.
- Leaders are ambitious for pupils. Pupils spoke proudly of the school's motto of 'Killamarsh CARES'. They strive to demonstrate these positive attitudes and display pride when their successes are celebrated.
- Leaders, staff and governors want the best for all their pupils.
- Pupils enjoy learning about different authors. In assemblies, leaders reward pupils' reading achievements.
- Recently, leaders have purchased reading books that are more age-appropriate and motivating for pupils at the early stages of reading.
- A small minority of pupils in school need additional support to manage their emotional and mental well-being. Leaders strive to meet the needs of these pupils.
- Pupils learn about different religions and faiths. The school's 'I-Vengers' help their peers to understand internet safety. Pupils learn about healthy relationships. They are fond of the opportunities they receive to create and experience art.
- Governors come into school regularly to check on leaders' actions. They are beginning to use the information they receive to ask probing questions about pupils' behaviour and attendance and are holding leaders to account.
- Leaders and teachers know their pupils and community well. They have established safeguarding systems that are well understood by all. All staff know how to identify pupils who may need help. The school's curriculum has been adapted to ensure pupils understand these risks.
- Leaders work with external professionals so that pupils and their families receive the support they need.
- Leaders take allegations of bullying seriously.

We acknowledge the need to improve and will work with you and the community to do so in the coming months. Our key areas for improvement are:

Early Reading provision: We need to ensure that assessments for early reading helps teachers identify the precise next steps for pupils and check that reading books are interesting, motivating and developmentally appropriate.



As mentioned in the inspection report, we have already purchased reading books that are more age-appropriate and motivating but we are now pursuing the funding to buy many more. We are also now purchasing a new Early Reading scheme that will allow better continuity from the Infant school to Juniors and support children with relevant resources. We are assessing children against the new scheme to ensure we match the right support to their needs. We have already started training staff in the new approach.

Curriculum Leadership: We need to ensure that subject leaders have the necessary knowledge and skills to lead their subject areas successfully. Further training and time will be given to curriculum subject leaders to develop thorough schemes and approaches so they can lead children to success in their curriculum area.

Behaviour and Citizenship: We need to ensure the systems and procedures, such as our new Positive Behaviour Policy and Killamarsh CARES strategy help children understand consequences of their words and actions. We will use our RSHE curriculum, awareness days and assembly targets to continue this work but we also want to teach children more about “protected groups” and how this should affect their behaviour and actions on the playground and in our communities. We will work with you to ensure we continue to improve communication, let you know more about the school’s action for your children and develop more opportunities for you to give us feedback and contribute.

Improve attendance rates and reduce persistent absence: Our attendance rates are below national average and we are particularly worried about some groups of children’s persistent absence (10% absence or more). We are working with families and external agencies to address this and we have already sent a leaflet to all parents about the need for good attendance to ensure children’s progress and readiness for their next steps in life.

Some SEND provision is not precise enough: We need to ensure that staff have further time and training to develop their expertise so they can plan a well-matched curriculum for pupils with SEND. We have purchased a new software tool to better record the targets for SEND pupils. We have started training teachers, in its use, and are fine tuning targets for children so their curriculum is appropriate and it can lead to increased success. We will further develop this and involve parents more regularly in reviewing provision for their children.

A key part of successfully improving in the above areas will be good partnership with parents and carers. We want to involve you more in the education of your child and seek your feedback. Please look out for opportunities in the near future to respond to short surveys and attend workshops and forums relating to this work.

We value your opinion and please feel free to share this with us, so we can respond and increase our community’s confidence in the developing strengths of our school.

As stated in the report “Leaders, staff and governors want the best for all their pupils” and we will continue to work hard to ensure they all have a successful future!

Stuart Turner
Headteacher

On behalf of the staff and Governing Board