

Inspection of Woodgate Primary School

Lutley Grove, Bartley Green, Birmingham, West Midlands B32 3PN

Inspection dates:	22 and 23 October 2024
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Early years provision	Good
Previous inspection grade	Good

What is it like to attend this school?

The 'Woodgate family' welcomes everyone. Parents and carers know that their children, no matter what their needs, will be well cared for. Woodgate has created a strong sense of belonging for its community. The school makes sure that families are well supported in the local area. The Woodgate 'wardrobe' and 'pantry', for example, provide clothing and food for families, who welcome this.

Pupils know that they will be warmly greeted each morning when they arrive at school. They are eager to come to school and build strong relationships with staff. Pupils trust that staff will keep them safe and know that staff will look out for them through the day.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are included in all aspects of the school's work. For example, all pupils take part in 'cultural days' and enjoy learning about each other's backgrounds and faiths. Pupils appreciate the wide range of experiences available, including sports and theatre. These help pupils think about what they would like to do in the future. Staff are committed to helping pupils do their best and support them to 'become anything they want to be'. Pupils value this and achieve well here.

Pupils know how they should conduct themselves. They behave well. Pupils are courteous, holding doors open for others and talking politely to other pupils and visitors.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The school supports pupils well to become fluent readers. Over the past two years, the teaching of reading has improved. In phonics, pupils learn to decode words well. Staff are skilled and they deliver the curriculum well. Teachers provide plenty of opportunity for pupils to practise their own decoding skills. Carefully constructed activities help children in the early years pick up essential language skills in their learning and play. Working closely with parents, staff quickly identify and help any pupils struggling with their reading.

Teachers are skilled. They have strong subject knowledge and often use this to ensure pupils develop a sound understanding of the things they are taught. Pupils enjoy their learning and approach tasks with enthusiasm. In mathematics, staff make sure they show pupils how best to solve problems before asking them to try examples for themselves. Here, teachers quickly spot when pupils have made a mistake and adjust their teaching to resolve this. This helps pupils make strong progress. However, this is not always the case. In some subjects, not all staff routinely check that pupils have understood the things they have been taught before moving on. This leads to gaps in learning and holds pupils back.

The school quickly identifies any difficulties that pupils with SEND have in accessing the curriculum. Leaders and staff share expertise, which helps them determine how to present work in different ways to meet pupils' individual needs. As a result of this careful work, pupils with SEND learn well across the curriculum.

The school has successfully re-defined the curriculum in reading, writing and mathematics. Pupils make strong gains in these subjects. Here, leaders check on pupils' progress and take appropriate action to support pupils and staff if needed. In other subjects, this is less well developed. The school does not always check on the impact of some areas of the curriculum carefully enough and leaders are not always clear about how well pupils are learning. This limits the progress some pupils make in some subjects.

Attendance is improving. Children develop good attendance habits in the early years. Leaders have introduced a range of motivating strategies to encourage good attendance. Pupils, along with their parents, value these. For example, the 'HERO' scheme, 'here every day, ready on time', finds pupils keen to attend well. Pupils can also spend attendance points, which helps them develop financial awareness.

There is a calm and purposeful ethos in classrooms and around school. The school recognises that some pupils find it tricky to concentrate for long periods. Staff know how best to support a pupil should they struggle. Staff are sensitive to pupils' needs and use their knowledge of pupils' interests to support pupils to behave well if needed.

Pupils are eager to read. Book corners in classrooms contain a range of well-chosen texts that spark pupils' interest and support their wider understanding of life in modern Britain. For example, through their reading, pupils develop a sound understanding of important themes such as diversity and belonging. This includes learning about different kinds of relationships and what it means to follow different faiths. Reflective lessons help pupils think about their own backgrounds by considering those of others. The school is aspirational for pupils' next steps. Leaders ensure that all pupils benefit from a range of visits and experiences that enable pupils to learn about future careers.

Governors actively support the school's commitment to providing every pupil with a strong education. Governors work closely with leaders and staff to continue to develop the Woodgate offer. This support is leading to sustained improvement here.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- In some subjects, staff do not routinely check that pupils have understood the things they have been taught before moving on to new learning. As a result, some children have gaps in their learning. Where this happens, pupils are held back. Leaders should ensure that staff make careful checks on pupils' learning and adapt their teaching to make sure all pupils have understood the things they have been taught.
- The school is not always rigorous enough in checking the effectiveness of subjects being taught. This means that leaders are not always clear on the aspects of their work

that require the most urgent attention, and the specific refinements needed to improve subjects are not always addressed. Leaders should monitor the impact of their work carefully to build a clear view of how well pupils learn the intended curriculum across all subjects.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the [definition of children in need of help and protection](#); pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's [pupil premium funding](#) (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).

School details

Unique reference number	103310
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	10343732
Type of school	Primary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	400
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Susan Barratt
Headteacher	Deborah Colley
Website	www.woodgateprimary.co.uk
Dates of previous inspection	25 and 26 June 2019, under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- Currently, no pupils attend alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. During a graded inspection, we grade the school for each of our key judgements (quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development; and leadership and management) and for any relevant provision judgement (early years and/or sixth form provision). Schools receiving a graded inspection from September 2024 will not be given an overall effectiveness grade.

- Inspections are a point-in-time evaluation about the quality of a school's education provision.
- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.

- Inspectors met with the headteacher, senior leaders and other leaders. They also met with members of the governing body and a representative from the local authority.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in early reading, mathematics, science, geography and music. For each deep dive, the inspectors met with subject leaders, visited lessons, spoke with staff and pupils and looked at samples of pupils' work. Other subjects were considered as part of the inspection.
- The lead inspector listened to a sample of pupils read to a familiar adult.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, inspectors: reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.
- Inspectors observed pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the school. They spoke with pupils about their experiences in school, including how safe they feel.
- Inspectors considered the views of parents through Ofsted Parent View. They also considered the views of staff and pupils through surveys and discussions.
- Inspectors reviewed a range of documents shared by school leaders, including curriculum information, minutes of meetings and attendance information.

Inspection team

Jeremy Bird, lead inspector	Ofsted Inspector
Linda Brown	Ofsted Inspector
Kate Wilcock	Ofsted Inspector

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