

4th July 2025

RE: Ofsted – The Ickniel Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share that we have been awarded 'Outstanding' grades across two key areas in our most recent Ofsted report.

Following an inspection on 20 and 21 May, we achieved 'Outstanding' in both Personal Development and Leadership and Management, alongside 'Good' in all other areas,

We are incredibly proud of this achievement. The report spoke highly of our staff and our pupils, who were described as "caring, honest, resilient, and ambitious to learn."

This complimentary report reflects the hard work and dedication of our entire community. It is especially rewarding to note how positively pupils speak of our values.

We encourage you to read the full report on our website [Ofsted Report – Ickniel Primary School](#). We have also highlighted some of the key findings that we are particularly proud of below.

- "Pupils speak proudly of their school values. They are caring, honest, resilient and certainly ambitious to learn. The foundations for this are built in the engaging and stimulating early years environment."
- "Pupils behave well. They show respect for one another and benefit from proactive support. When pupils do experience an issue, staff empathetically support them. These caring relationships help ensure that pupils remain calm and happy."
- "The school has high expectations for everyone. These are realised through a well structured, broad and ambitious curriculum. Pupils achieve well in national tests and assessments. They also recall and retain knowledge securely across the wider curriculum."
- "Pupils benefit from a rich programme of clubs, trips and leadership opportunities. These go beyond the expected. For example, they participate in a careers week. This gives pupils a rich, early understanding of different career pathways and helps raise their aspirations ahead of entering secondary education."
- "The school excels in developing pupils' character and resilience. A thoughtfully refined personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme supports pupils to know about staying safe and how to recover from setbacks."
- Mental and physical well-being are prioritised through mindfulness workshops and interventions like play therapy. Pupils develop a strong sense of citizenship through community projects, such as contributing artwork to a local science park.
- "Pupils receive precisely targeted support from highly trained staff to become confident, fluent readers."
- "Staff have increased their subject knowledge. For example, in physical education (PE), collaboration with PE specialist teachers and the trust's PE lead has enabled staff to confidently deliver the curriculum."

- “Children in the early years develop strong foundations for future learning. Teachers help them build on this knowledge in subsequent years. Teachers use resources to help pupils understand abstract concepts, regularly checking understanding and adapting learning. As a result, pupils across the school build on their knowledge across the curriculum.”
- “Phonics teaching is now a major strength. With expert support, the school has implemented a consistent, well-understood approach. Well-trained staff deliver this programme very effectively. This has significantly reduced the number of pupils needing intensive support with phonics. Pupils read confidently, enjoy books, and value rewards such as becoming reading millionaires.”
- “The school identifies the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) well. Staff tailor their approaches, using effective strategies, adaptations and additional explanations to ensure all pupils can access the curriculum.”

A recurring theme in the feedback is appreciation for our commitment to nurturing pupils’ character and resilience. We are dedicated to offering enriching experiences that help shape their talents and aspirations, and we are especially proud that this commitment has been recognised.

We pride ourselves on the positive relationships we build with our children and you, our supportive families. I was delighted to see this commended by inspectors and feel deeply grateful to the entire community who have helped make this possible.

My thanks also extend to colleagues across the central team at Anglian Learning, who have been instrumental in the significant steps taken in developing our curriculum.

We are now focused on building upon this success, continuing to drive excellence across all aspects of our school environment and provision.

Yours sincerely,



Diane Mitchell
Headteacher at The Ickniel Primary School