



# Fair Field Junior School

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## Ofsted Report: November 2009

As I am sure you know, Fair Field was inspected by Ofsted on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Here are the grades for the individual aspects that are assessed by Ofsted in the inspection:

Capacity for sustained improvement	Good
Pupils' attainment	Good
Pupils' learning and progress	Satisfactory
The extent to which pupils feel safe	Good
Pupils' behaviour	Good
The extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles	Good
The extent to which pupils contribute to the school and wider community	Good
Pupils development of workplace and other skills that contribute to their future economic well-being	Good
Pupils' attendance	Satisfactory
The extent of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	Good
The quality of teaching	Good
The use of assessment to support learning	Good
The extent to which the curriculum meets pupils' needs, including through partnerships	Good
The effectiveness of care, guidance and support	Good
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	Good
The leadership and management of teaching and learning	Good
The effectiveness of the governing body in challenging and supporting the school	Good
The effectiveness of the school's engagement with parents and carers	Good
The effectiveness of partnerships in promoting learning and well-being	Good
The effectiveness with which the school promotes equal opportunity and tackles discrimination	Good
The effectiveness of safeguarding procedures	Good
The effectiveness with which the school promotes community cohesion	Good
The effectiveness with which the school deploys resources to achieve value for money	Satisfactory

Under Ofsted's new rules, applied since September 2009, the inspectors graded the school satisfactory overall.

We have identified three areas for improvement:

- We want more pupils to reach level 5 (*age expectation is level 4*) by the end of year 6;
- We want to improve the *consistency* of handwriting;
- We want to further improve how marking specifically relates to lessons.

**P.T.O.**



## Questions and Answers

But if so many grades are ‘good’, why are we graded ‘satisfactory’ overall?

Pupils enter year 3 at Fair Field well above average for their age and they leave at the end of year 6 *well above average for their age*. Ofsted say that pupil attainment at Fair Field is *high* and pupils make the progress that is expected for pupils like ours. The overall grade relates to the past four years’ SATs results under the new (2009) Ofsted rules. The inspectors were delighted to see that current pupil progress in lessons is *good*.

What are we good at?

We are very proud of our pupils’ behaviour and attitudes, which are at least *good*, with *outstanding* attitudes to learning documented by Ofsted. Inspectors made special mention of the tremendous support from parents and of the effectiveness of our united staff. Pupils’ attainment is *significantly above* the national and county average. We are *good* at caring for, guiding and supporting children. Teaching is *good* throughout the school, with some lessons *outstanding*. The great range of exciting activities makes our curriculum *good*. We have strong and committed leadership and Ofsted say the new team already has a proven track record. Governors are *good* at holding our school to account.

So what’s improved since the 2007 Ofsted report?

	2007	2009
Capacity for improvement	Satisfactory	Good
Teaching	Satisfactory	Good
Assessment	Satisfactory	Good
Curriculum	Satisfactory	Good
Care, guidance and support	Satisfactory	Good
Leadership	Satisfactory	Good
School self-evaluation of performance	Satisfactory	Good
Governors	Satisfactory	Good
Engagement with parents	Satisfactory	Good
Partnerships in promoting learning	Satisfactory	Good
Equality of opportunity	Satisfactory	Good

Will my child do well?

Ofsted say so. Our *curriculum, teaching and pupil support* cater for all learners and are graded *good*. Attainment is high compared to national and county standards. *Good teaching and learning* means that pupils’ progress in lessons is rated *good*. Ofsted are clear: pupils leave Fair Field thoroughly prepared for their future.

Are the teachers good?

Yes. Our teachers and teaching assistants are very effective. We know it and Ofsted have confirmed our own judgements. The overwhelming majority of the inspectors’ time is spent in classrooms. They watched classes in action. Their judgement was clear and school-wide: our teaching is *good with some lessons judged outstanding*.

How could we do better?

Although Ofsted grade the overwhelming majority of aspects of the school as *good*, our plan sets our sights on being an *outstanding* school, which we will achieve when *more pupils reach level 5* at the end of year 6.

Where next?

I am immensely proud of our achievements. Ofsted report that the school has improved in almost every respect since the last inspection. The report marks a point on a journey and, as a community, we have our sights set high. The improvements in this report are a testament to the commitment of our staff, governors, parents and pupils. The hard work has been recognised. We know that pupils attain well and make expected progress. We always strive to do better, and in doing so, we will not compromise the breadth of experience for pupils. Our focus on *academic achievement* goes hand-in-hand with our focus on the *whole child*. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported our school. I sincerely look forward to our future and to the next time Ofsted visit to measure our success.

