

Graham James Primary Academy

The Sorrells Stanford-le-Hope Essex SS17 7ES

Head Teacher Petra Back, B.A. Hons.

Telephone (01375) 675889



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Dear Parents and Carers

As you know we were visited by Ofsted on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd April, and they were very impressed with the Children and the Staff here at Graham James. I am really pleased to share the report with you and am sure you will see just how well the inspection went. The report highlights the hard work and dedication of all the staff to continue to support the children to learn well, make progress and enjoy their time with us. Unfortunately, the report is limited to a specific amount of words and does not cover all the positive and lovely things they said about our School so I thought I would share some of these with you.

The inspectors met and spoke with lots of the children whilst they were here and were so impressed with how articulate and knowledgeable they are. They saw how kind and supportive of each other they are, how confident they are, what impeccable manners they have and how well they behave both in class and outside. We are so proud of how they conducted themselves and how they showed our visitors just how amazing they all are. It's something we already know and is also commented upon whenever we have visitors to school or when children are out on trips etc.

They were incredibly impressed by the curriculum the children are taught and noted that it was well-sequenced and enabled the children to make good progress whilst enjoying their learning. They commented on our teachers' subject knowledge across the curriculum and that lessons were engaging for the children, and they were pleased to see the children actively participating in their learning with enthusiasm and independence.

They were pleased to see our commitment to providing strong reading and writing opportunities for all the children and were complementary of our Phonics which they felt was delivered by experts that know the scheme well. They also commented on our strong outcomes and progress in reading and writing across the school and in our results in the national tests.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was highly complimented for creating an environment where independence and high expectations result in a strong foundation for future learning. The interactions in the EYFS class were described as exemplary, with a strong emphasis on developing children's vocabulary from an early age.

They also observed maths across the school and could see the ambitious curriculum we teach and how well the children responded to this. We again have very good outcomes in the national tests which also evidence strong progress.

They watched several of our PE lessons and said that our pupils showed great sportsmanship, were able to work together and to compete while respecting one another.

They enjoyed the Science lessons they observed and were complimentary of the scheme we use and the way children are offered so many opportunities to carry out practical activities to extend their learning.

We absolutely believe that our ambition should be equal for all children, and the inspectors noted the high expectations we set for our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) children. The support provided ensures that every child can thrive academically and socially.

It was lovely to hear that our children spoke about their learning with confidence and were able to talk enthusiastically about what they remember and what they are excited to learn.

A real strength noted by the inspectors was our behaviour policy, which reinforces the importance of positive relationships across the whole school. They saw the relationships between the children and how much they care for each other. They saw the relationships between the children and the staff and how supportive they are and how children felt they always had someone they could talk to. They also saw the support between the adults and how the Leadership Team consider the well-being of all staff and children in everything we do. They also noted our commitment to safeguarding and the strong safeguarding culture that prioritises the welfare of our students.

The respectful and polite way in which the children behaved is a real testament to the caring ethos we have worked so hard to embed within our school community. At Graham James, we believe in our motto 'learning to care, caring to learn' and the children proved they do too. They told the inspectors that they were happy, felt safe, enjoyed their learning and were proud to come to our School, which is literally the best thing we could hear from the whole process.

We were complimented on our commitment to ensuring excellent attendance and would thank you all for being on that journey with us.

They could see that we offer a vast number of opportunities for developing children's personal skills both inside and outside the classroom with trips, clubs, Buddy Groups, well-being support, community activities and lots of exciting activities to add to the significant progress both academically and personally.

We have clear plans already underway to ensure we continually improve our practice and the experiences of all the children.

I hope that you can see all the incredible things we were complimented on and know that we will continue to strive to make our best even better and look forward to working with you to do this.

Thank you once again for your continued support and being such an important part of our school community, this plays such a pivotal role in helping us maintain the high standards that we will always aspire to.

Yours sincerely

P. Back ./

Petra Back
Head Teacher