

Mansfield Primary Academy earns praise from Ofsted

Ofsted inspectors have given the stamp of approval to Mansfield Primary Academy, rating it Good and in particular highlighting the “significant” progress pupils are making in English and mathematics, and the high quality of teaching.

The Ofsted report said the school was well-placed to improve even further, praising the strong leadership across the school, including the Principal, Carmel Atkinson, the senior leadership team, and governors. Inspectors said that they are “determined” to improve the school, with particular progress achieved since Mrs Atkinson joined the school in September 2017. The quality of teaching, use of assessment, and English and maths were all picked out as areas where there had been strong improvement. For example, the proportion of pupils on track to attain the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics in Year 2 “has almost doubled” in comparison with last year.

Inspectors said that Mrs Atkinson has, with the support of other senior leaders, “motivated, guided and challenged staff to improve the quality of teaching and the use of assessment.” Inspectors were told by “many parents that the school has improved under the leadership of the new headteacher”.

Greenwood Academies Trust, which sponsors Mansfield Primary Academy, was also commended for its “detailed knowledge of the school”, and how it “challenges and supports the school effectively”.

The Trust’s commitment to inclusivity and to raise the aspirations of all pupils to achieve their potential, regardless of background, is recognised in Ofsted’s praise of the academy for its use of funding to “ensure that pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities do well at school” and that “all groups of pupils make good progress.”

Other areas of success highlighted by the report, include:

- “Pupils behave well around the school. In class they work hard and concentrate well. Relationships are good and most pupils enjoy school.”
- “Safeguarding is effective.”
- “Senior leaders know the school inside out. They have a clear understanding of where to focus their work to bring about further improvement. Staff and pupils have responded well this year to leaders’ high expectations.”
- “Pupils are making good progress in reading, writing and mathematics from their low starting points.”

Carmel Atkinson, Principal of Mansfield Primary Academy, said:

"I am so pleased that the hard work that all the staff, colleagues from Greenwood Academies Trust and especially pupils, supported by parents, have put in to support the improvement of our school has been rewarded. This excellent Ofsted report is a real team effort.

"I would like to thank everyone connected with the academy for the part they have played in this success, and we look forward to building on it as we continue to head towards Outstanding."

Wayne Norrie, Chief Executive Officer of Greenwood Academies Trust, said:

"I am delighted to see that the hard work of the staff, children and parents at Mansfield Primary Academy has been recognised in this report. I am especially pleased that the contribution of Mrs Atkinson has also been highly praised. Her excellent leadership has made such a positive impact at the academy and I look forward to seeing the academy go from strength to strength.

"We have high standards for all the academies within our Trust, and the team at Mansfield Primary Academy, led by Carmel Atkinson, is a superb example of this and has had such a positive impact."