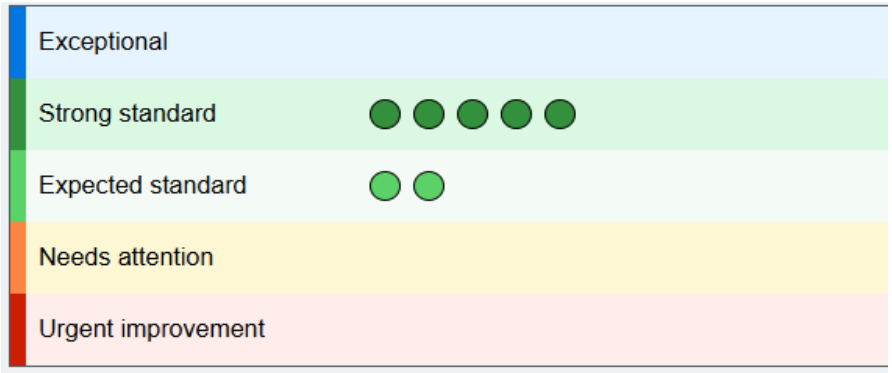
THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

AMBITION
INCLUSION
OPPORTUNITY

DOVE BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL
KIDSGROVE



OUR LATEST OFSTED REPORT

“Children get off to a flying start at Dove Bank, where every child is valued, supported and encouraged to thrive.”

Ofsted



A message from our leaders

Dove Bank Primary School joined The Learning Partnership in January 2024. Since then, school leaders, staff, governors and Trust colleagues have worked together with ambition, dedication and a shared commitment to providing the very best education for every child. Building on the school's strengths, further work has been undertaken to develop teaching and learning, strengthen inclusion, enhance the curriculum and ensure that every pupil feels safe, valued and able to thrive. This report recognises and celebrates the progress made during this journey, reflecting the hard work, resilience and unwavering commitment of the entire school community.

We are absolutely delighted that Dove Bank Primary School has been recognised as achieving a Strong Standard across Attendance and Behaviour, Early Years, Inclusion, Leadership and Governance, and Personal Development and Wellbeing. The report reflects what we see every day: a school where **Kindness**, **Aspiration** and **Resilience** are at the heart of everything we do, where children feel safe, valued and supported, and where staff, families and governors work together to help every pupil succeed.

Inspectors recognised the highly inclusive culture of the school, the strength of our relationships with families, the quality of support provided for pupils with additional needs and the positive environment we have created for both children and staff. We are particularly proud that the report highlights the caring, welcoming atmosphere of the school, the excellent start children receive in Early Years, and the extensive opportunities available to support pupils' personal development and wellbeing.

The report also recognises the dedication and commitment of our staff team, who work tirelessly to ensure that every child is known, nurtured and encouraged to achieve their very best. It acknowledges the strong partnerships we have established with families and the wider community, and the support provided by The Learning Partnership Trust, governors and trustees in helping us continually improve.

Whilst we are incredibly proud of this outcome, we remain ambitious for our school. The report identifies clear next steps, which align closely with our own priorities for further strengthening pupils' learning and achievement. We are excited to continue building on the many strengths identified by inspectors and remain committed to providing the very best education and opportunities for every child at Dove Bank.

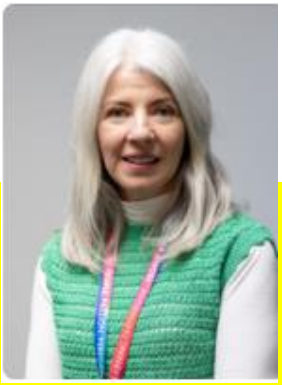
We would like to thank our pupils, families, staff, governors and Trust colleagues for their continued support. This report is something we can all be proud of and reflects the collective effort of our entire school community.



Dan Thomas
CEO



Sally Dakin
Executive Headteacher



Joanne Woodward
Head of School

“Pupils speak confidently about their experiences, show pride in their achievements and demonstrate a strong sense of belonging and responsibility.”

Ofsted

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO ATTEND THIS SCHOOL?

OFSTED

"Inclusion is at the heart of the school. Staff know pupils and families extremely well. They work closely with parents to ensure every child feels valued and can succeed.

We are delighted that our unwavering commitment to inclusion has been recognised. Creating a school where every child feels valued, supported and able to succeed is at the heart of everything we do. We are particularly pleased that the strong relationships between staff, pupils and families, and the care taken to understand and meet the needs of every child, have been identified as key strengths. This recognition reflects the inclusive culture we strive to nurture every day, where every pupil is welcomed, celebrated and encouraged to thrive.

OFSTED

"Adults make the most of every opportunity to develop children's language, extend their thinking and build their confidence."

We are delighted that the strength of our Early Years provision has been recognised. Developing children's language, confidence and thinking skills is central to our approach, and we are proud that the nurturing interactions between adults and children, which help every child flourish from their very first days at Dove Bank. This recognition reflects our commitment to creating rich learning experiences that inspire curiosity, build confidence and lay strong foundations for future success.

OFSTED

"Kindness, aspiration and resilience are at the heart of pupils' experiences at Dove Bank."

We are thrilled that Dove Bank's core values of kindness, aspiration and resilience have been recognised as being at the heart of pupils' daily experiences. These values are far more than words on a page; they are woven into the culture of the school and evident in the way pupils learn, behave and support one another.

OFSTED

"Pupils are well supported to develop their reading, communication, mathematical and writing skills. This helps them to access the wider curriculum with increasing confidence."

We are pleased that the strength of our curriculum and teaching has been recognised. Supporting pupils to develop secure reading, communication, writing and mathematical skills is a key priority, and it is wonderful to see this acknowledged. These strong foundations enable pupils to access the wider curriculum with confidence and achieve success across all areas of learning.

OFSTED

"Relationships are warm and respectful. Pupils behave well and understand the importance of kindness and respect."

We are delighted that the positive culture at Dove Bank has been recognised. Warm, respectful relationships are the foundation of our school community, and it is particularly pleasing to see that pupils' kindness, respect and excellent behaviour have been highlighted. This reflects our commitment to creating a nurturing environment where every child feels valued, supported and proud to belong.



"Pupils enjoy a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom..."

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DO WELL?

OFSTED

"Clear routines, positive relationships and engaging lessons help pupils settle quickly, stay focused and enjoy learning."

We are pleased that the positive learning culture at Dove Bank has been recognised. Clear routines, strong relationships and engaging teaching create an environment where pupils feel secure, enjoy coming to school and are ready to learn. It is particularly rewarding to see the impact of this reflected in pupils' focus, confidence and enthusiasm for learning.

OFSTED

"High-quality training and support for staff have strengthened teaching, improving consistency across classes."

We are delighted that the investment in staff development has been recognised. High-quality training and support ensure that teachers continue to refine their practice, helping to deliver a consistently high-quality learning experience for all pupils. This recognition reflects our commitment to professional growth and continuous improvement across the school.





"...work extends beyond the classroom and ensures that pupils develop the knowledge, confidence and character needed to thrive."

OFSTED

"The school provides the right support at the right time for pupils facing social, emotional, communication or additional challenges."

We are particularly proud that the strength of our support for pupils with social, emotional and additional needs has been recognised. Ensuring that every child receives the right support at the right time is central to our inclusive approach, enabling pupils to feel understood, overcome barriers and thrive both personally and academically.

OFSTED

"Staff feel valued, supported and listened to, creating a positive environment where everyone works together to help pupils succeed."

We are proud that the positive culture we have created for our staff has been recognised. We believe that when staff feel valued, listened to and supported, they are able to give their very best to the children in our care. This acknowledgment reflects the strong teamwork, shared commitment and sense of community that exists across the school, all of which help our pupils to thrive.



"Pupils benefit from a well-planned curriculum that helps the build knowledge and skills successfully over time."









"...adults create a nurturing environment where high expectations are balanced with care and encouragement."

OFSTED

"Positive outcomes in writing, phonics and reading show that most pupils gain the essential foundations they need for future success."

Developing strong foundations in reading, writing and phonics is a key priority at Dove Bank, and it is pleasing to see the impact of this reflected in pupils' success. These essential skills equip children with the confidence and knowledge they need to flourish in the next stage of their education and beyond. The report also recognised the school's commitment to ensure that those who have fallen behind catch up.

What are our next steps?

Next Steps:

- **Leaders should continue to ensure that staff consistently identify and correct errors in letter and number formation so that more pupils develop secure foundational skills and apply these accurately across the curriculum.**

- **Leaders should ensure that pupils are consistently provided with opportunities to connect and apply their knowledge across subjects, enabling more pupils to work at greater depth.**



Our OFSTED Report

Use the QR code to access the full report.

Click HERE to view our report.