



Kirkburton Middle School

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Enjoying, Achieving, Succeeding Together

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very pleased to share with you the full OFSTED inspection report for our school following the visit that took place on 10 and 11 February 2026. We feel the report reflects the hard work, dedication and commitment of our pupils, staff and wider community.

Key Strengths

We are delighted that inspectors acknowledged so many of the school's strengths. They commented on the *"calm and purposeful atmosphere around the school"* and praised pupils for behaving *"with courtesy and kindness"* and for approaching their learning *"with great dedication"*.

Inspectors also recognised the quality of education we provide, noting that *"leaders have created a well-considered and progressive learning journey"*. They highlighted that *"high-quality discussions often take place in classrooms, which engage and enthuse pupils"*, helping to ensure that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Inspectors were also highly complementary about pupils' personal development, highlighting that they *"develop a strength of character, confidence and respect for others which is well embedded"*. Our enrichment offer is described as *"varied"*, providing opportunities that help pupils *"develop their talents and interests"*. We are particularly proud that inspectors recognised *"everyone is included and has a chance to flourish"*, our 'Team KMS' approach as the pupils will know it in school.

It was also wonderful to see inspectors acknowledge the strong pastoral care on offer in school, something we are particularly proud of. The report states that pupils feel safe, supported and respected within our school community and that any pupil who feels anxious or unsure *"gets the help they need to succeed"*. Our amazing pupil leaders are rightly praised for being *"excellent role models"*; well done to all involved for all their excellent and ongoing efforts.

Finally, we are especially proud of the comments describing what it is like to be a pupil at our school. Inspectors write that pupils *"enjoy coming to school and attend very well"*, that they are *"mature and well mannered"*, and that they *"take pride in their achievements and their school"*. These are attributes that truly reflect the spirit and values of Kirkburton Middle School. You should rightly be very proud of your children – we certainly are!

Next steps

As you will read, the report also identifies clear next steps—particularly around ensuring that teaching is consistently well adapted for all pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and strengthening the monitoring of the impact of SEND and disadvantaged pupil strategies. We fully agree with these recommendations; they mirror areas we had already identified for development and they are



key priorities within our school development plan. As part of this work, I'm delighted to announce the recent appointment of Mike Black as Executive SENDCo across both middle schools. Mike brings with him many years of SEND experience, including significant time working within the Kirklees specialist outreach teams. He offers a wealth of knowledge, expertise and leadership that will continue to strengthen provision for our most vulnerable learners.

A new grading system

You will notice that the report uses OFSTED's updated evaluation system, which has replaced the previous single-word overall judgements (such as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'). Instead, schools are now assessed against a set of standards—*Exceptional, Strong, Expected, Needs Attention* and *Urgent Improvement*. OFSTED say this approach provides a more balanced and informative picture of a school's performance, recognising areas of real strength while identifying specific priorities for improvement. They also state the new expected standard is "*a high standard to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve*". We welcome this more nuanced system, as it aligns closely with how we already evaluate our own provision and supports our commitment to continuous improvement. Please click below to find out more.

[New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents \(3-minute video\)](#)

A report to be proud of

Overall, we believe this report is something that our whole community should feel extremely proud of. It captures the dedication of our staff, the character and ambition of our pupils, and the support and values of our families. We hope you agree.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. Working in partnership with parents and carers is fundamental to our success, and we look forward to continuing that journey together.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor
Executive Headteacher