

Significant improvements have been made at a secondary school in Southend following a major turnaround recognised by Ofsted.

Southchurch High School, in Southchurch Boulevard, has received a positive inspection report highlighting "rapid improvement" after "highly effective action" taken by leaders.

The school was awarded five judgements at "expected standard" and one area identified as "needs attention".

This comes after Southchurch High School was rated "inadequate" in 2022 after inspectors found bullying, prejudice and inappropriate segregation of boys and girls.

Following an initial set of changes, the school was then rated "requires improvement" in 2023.

The new report, published today, stated: "Pupils at Southchurch High School describe how the school has improved significantly in recent years.

"Leaders have taken highly effective action to improve the quality of provision for pupils.

"Leaders have worked with purpose to improve behaviour, ensuring that the school is calm and lessons are purposeful.

"Initially, some parents, carers and pupils did not agree with the changes to the school's behaviour policy.

"Since establishing the behaviour policy, parents, pupils and staff appreciate the impact this has made.

"There have been significant improvements to pupils' behaviour and their readiness to learn.

"Leaders know that there is further work to do and are working quickly to ensure that pupils' achievement improves."

Inspectors described the school as a "safe, very calm and purposeful place for pupils to learn", reflecting the changes made to behaviour, routines and culture.

Teachers were praised for helping pupils build knowledge and confidence over time and for identifying gaps in learning quickly.

Pupils were also found to learn about healthy relationships, equality, democracy and online safety, helping them prepare for adult life.

Headteacher Tracy Airoll said: "We are incredibly proud that Ofsted has recognised the enormous improvements that have taken place across Southchurch High School.

"Our staff work tirelessly every day to ensure that pupils feel safe, supported and challenged to achieve their very best.

"We are building a school where children are happy, ambitious and proud to belong.

"Southchurch High School continues to move forward with confidence and ambition as it builds on this momentum and works to ensure every child thrives both academically and personally."

