



Wellfield Academy

Executive Headteacher Mrs L Gwinnett
Head of School Mr J Lewis

10th January 2022

Dear parents and students,

Ofsted Inspection Update

As you are aware, Ofsted visited us to carry out a full Section 5 inspection towards the end of last term on 15th and 16th November. We are now delighted to share the full inspection report with you, which reflects the excellent progress that is being made at Wellfield Academy and the position of strength we are now in as a school.

We are delighted that the inspection team graded 3 key areas of our school as follows:

- Behaviour & Attitudes: **Good**
- Personal Development: **Good**
- Leadership & Management: **Good**

The inspection recognised the many excellent features of our school and the continued upward journey we are on, as is shown below with the range of fantastic **direct quotes** from the report:

- Pupils are proud to attend Wellfield Academy
- Parents, carers and pupils recognise the many positive changes since the previous inspection in 2018
- Leaders have high expectations of what pupils can achieve
- Pupils are happy at school and said that it is a safe place to be
- Curriculum plans are ambitious and pupils study a wide range of subjects
- Pupils are polite and well mannered
- Classrooms are calm and pupils move around school in a sensible and composed manner
- Lessons are rarely disrupted, and pupils appreciate the calm learning environment.
- Staff deal effectively with any bullying incidents that may occur
- Pupils know that there is always someone to help if they have worries or concerns
- Leaders have worked effectively since the previous inspection to improve the school
- Teachers have a strong knowledge of their subjects
- Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school
- Teachers have high expectations of behaviour
- The school provides high-quality pastoral support for pupils
- Leaders have systems in place to identify the individual needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
- Teachers receive appropriate training and information that allows them to support pupils with SEND effectively



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- Pupils understand differences in the world and most pupils are tolerant of everyone
- Leaders have designed a well-planned careers programme
- Leaders and governors are ambitious for the school
- Leaders have clear procedures in place to keep pupils safe
- Staff morale is high and leaders ensure that staff's workload is manageable

As you will appreciate, Ofsted did visit us a time when we were managing some significant staff absences and they did see some parts of lessons that didn't reflect the overall quality of standards that we now enjoy. For example, whilst it was highlighted that we have ambitious curriculum plans in place, in some parts of the lessons that inspectors visited, they felt that some teachers didn't probe enough with regards to prior learning. We were disappointed with this as it is an area we regularly focus on in our teacher training sessions so we could only put it down to a mixture of staff absence, nerves and/or fatigue after a long term. Nonetheless we are confident that the day to day lived experience in our classrooms is regularly really good and we will always keep working hard to make sure this is consistent. Furthermore, inspectors felt that our new programme to develop reading both in and out of the classroom was not yet fully embedded. We agreed with this observation and feedback from the inspection team as it is still in its infancy, however, further implementing our reading strategy remains one of our highest priorities as a school.

Ultimately, the timing of the inspection wasn't great when it came to the judgement for fourth key area of the Quality of Education, based on the few inconsistencies they saw. Unfortunately, this judgement was what they call a 'limiting judgement', which means that the overall judgement still remains 'Requires Improvement'.

Although we were initially disappointed with this, we have since reflected on all the fabulous feedback we got from the inspectors over the two days and in the report narrative. Added to this, 3 out of 4 areas were judged to be good, which is a 75% improvement on our last report. This shows the huge advancements made in the three years in between, despite having spent 20 months of that time managing a pandemic. This proves we are certainly on the right track and we have therefore concluded that there is much more to celebrate than to be disappointed with. We know that Wellfield is a wonderful school with much to be proud of.

The full report can be read on our website- [Ofsted Inspections | Wellfield Academy](#)

As always, we will never rest on our laurels and we will continue to improve in all areas of the school. We will also continue to develop in the areas identified in the report for improvement.

Ofsted did request your views and we received many positive comments which were lovely to hear read back to us. The same can be said of both the staff and student surveys. As a whole school community, it is abundantly clear that parents trust us, staff enjoy working here and particularly, students feel safe and supported in school.



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Our students are proud to attend Wellfield Academy and we continue to be proud of the incredible work of our staff and students. Once again, thank you for your support and for the role you and your son/ daughter have played in Wellfield's upward trajectory.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Gwinnett

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