Inspection of Newport Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School

Avenue Road, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7EA

Inspection dates:	6 and 7 December 2023

Overall effectiveness	**Good**
The quality of education	**Good**
Behaviour and attitudes	**Outstanding**
Personal development	**Outstanding**
Leadership and management	**Good**
Previous inspection grade	Good

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils, parents, carers and staff feel lucky to be part of this kind and caring community. Pupils demonstrate exceptionally high standards of behaviour and see it as their responsibility to make their school a nice place to be. This is an inclusive school where everybody feels part of the family.

Pupils feel safe because adults go above and beyond to get to know them and support them with their concerns. Care for pupils is exemplary and leaders have developed a culture of 'it could happen here' when training staff to keep pupils safe. Leaders know that feeling secure and happy will support pupils to be able to learn.

Most pupils achieve well and many read to a high standard and develop a more sophisticated understanding of mathematics as they progress to Year 6. Those that fall behind receive timely support to help them keep up with their peers.

Leaders find unique ways to develop pupils' interest in wider learning. They deliver an exceptional range of activities and events to excite and engage their pupils. Pupils feel that they could go on from this school and do 'great jobs' and that they feel lucky to be able to go on such 'amazing' residential visits.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

There is an exceptional team spirit in school, where everybody is receptive to the advice and guidance of others. Leaders seek to review what they do by inviting advisers to school to help them improve. Leaders act on advice but are not reactive. They think carefully about the implications of change and seek to consider the impact on staff workload when delivering it. Leaders make sure that everybody is committed to working in the best interests of the pupils they serve. Staff report feeling lucky to work at this school.

There is a good curriculum on offer. Pupils develop a deep understanding across many subjects. Careful consideration has been given to what staff want pupils to know. Leaders see the curriculum at this school as constantly evolving. They have made recent changes to the writing curriculum to improve pupils' written work and outcomes. These changes are not yet impacting on some pupils' progress. Leaders are continuing to work with staff to ensure that they understand the expectation of their new writing curriculum.

Pupils enjoy reading. The school has supported them to do so by investing in a wide range of books that interest them. Pupils feel that being able to read widely will help them to be successful when they leave this school. Some pupils who are not yet reading fluently receive support to help them catch up. The school has focused on making sure that all pupils have a good grasp of phonics.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are extremely well supported to learn. They receive high-quality support from staff who have been well trained to identify and assess their needs. There is consideration given to when these interventions take place so that pupils do not miss other learning. Support plans are highly effective in explaining why pupils find learning difficult. They identify ways that staff can apply to support them to access the whole curriculum. This means that pupils with SEND receive an equally good learning experience as their peers and they achieve well.

Pupils behave and demonstrate great maturity. The school's behaviour systems are rarely required as pupils show an intrinsic motivation to do the right thing. This is largely because they enjoy learning. Most pupils attend school regularly and those that do not are supported well to come to school more often.

Pupils demonstrate exceptional character. The experiences they get both in school and through extra-curricular activities are of high quality. Most pupils are provided with opportunities to develop their interests and represent the school in competitions. Pupils enjoy opportunities to visit new places and join new clubs, such as German club. Pupils feel that being inclusive and tolerant in society is how everybody should behave. They feel well prepared for life beyond this school and enjoy learning about the world of work during theme days.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Changes to the writing curriculum are relatively new and there is still some variability in the quality of work that some pupils produce. As a result, some pupils are not yet able to write at an age-related standard. The school should continue to support staff to understand the expectations of their new writing curriculum.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use Ofsted Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further guidance on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for published performance information about the school.

In the report, 'disadvantaged pupils' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the definition of children in need of help and protection; pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's pupil premium funding (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).

School details

Unique reference number	123489
Local authority	Telford & Wrekin
Inspection number	10256864
Type of school	Junior
School category	Voluntary controlled
Age range of pupils	7 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	325
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Laurie Boardman
Headteacher	Nicola Moody
Website	newportjuniorschool.org.uk
Dates of previous inspection	1 and 2 March 2022, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The school does not use any alternative provision.
- The headteacher has a 4-day per week contract and the deputy headteacher steps up into this role for one day of the week.
- The school is a voluntary controlled Church of England school. The last section 48 inspection was carried out in 2017. The next inspection is due by 2025.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- Inspections are a point-in-time judgement about the quality of a school's education provision.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, the inspectors: reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.

- Inspectors met with a range of leaders, including those responsible for the curriculum, teaching and learning, behaviour, attendance, personal development and safeguarding.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives into early reading, mathematics, physical education, English and art and design. For each deep dive, inspectors spoke to subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, talked to pupils about their learning and behaviour and considered samples of pupils' work.
- Inspectors also considered the curriculum in other subjects.
- The lead inspector also spoke with the local authority school improvement quality assurance officer and the school improvement adviser from the Severn Training and Schools Alliance.
- Inspectors met with the chair of governors and five other members of the governing body.
- Inspectors considered the responses to Ofsted Parent View and the free-text comments from parents.
- Inspectors considered the responses to staff and pupils surveys.

Inspection team

Antony Bradshaw, lead inspector	His Majesty's Inspector
Justine Lomas	Ofsted Inspector
Sarah Dukes	Ofsted Inspector

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