



Brighstone C.E. Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Dear parents and carers,

On Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th November 2021, a Section 5 (judgement) inspection took place by two inspectors. The progress made since the last Section 5 inspection in 2018 was recognised, with a new team of school leaders in place.

There are five areas of judgement:

- Quality of education
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Personal development
- Leadership and management
- Early years provision

The school's leadership and management, early years, personal development and behaviour and attitudes of pupils are now judged by Ofsted to be good.

We are pleased that the inspectors noted that in the wider curriculum subjects that leaders have already revisited, such as history, sequenced plans are in place that include the precise knowledge and skills that pupils will learn, and that there are actions in place to roll out this good practice across all of the curriculum subjects throughout the rest of this school year. However, as this roll-out has not yet been completed, inspectors judged the quality of education to require improvement. As this judgement is a limiting judgement, this means that the overall judgement is 'requires improvement'; however it was noted that 'leaders, governors and staff are ambitious for this small school' and that 'governors ensure that leaders have clear plans for improvement'.

We are delighted that the positive action taken around behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early year's provision has been recognised. These were identified as real strengths across the school. The inspectors recognised our strong focus on children's development that goes beyond the academic. We provide a wide range of opportunities to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) learning and experiences, including helping pupils to value diversity in the world. Our strong focus on developing pupils' vocabulary helps to unlock their learning, and it was recognised that we foster a love of reading throughout school.

Inspectors noted that the calm and respectful culture prevailing at Brighstone, underpinned by warm relationships between staff and pupils, results in positive behaviour from pupils. Pupils feel safe in a positive environment, supported by staff who help them to follow the behaviour expectations linked to the school values of love, courage and respect.

The inspectors recognised that all of our staff share the same determination for pupils to achieve well, and that pupils get off to a good start in learning to read and in developing their mathematical understanding. As a result, from the youngest age, pupils value their education.

In the Early Years, the inspectors praised the knowledgeable team for the strong planning that is adapted to meet the children's interests and targets. Brighstone's EYFS curriculum and provision develops the children's characters and independence, which help them to be ready for Y1. The children show resilience and take pride in their learning.

During the feedback from the lead inspector, we were told that much of the detail provided is omitted from the final report because of constraints on the number of words for each section. As so many positive comments were made in person, I would like to share some with you:

- Pupils are taught to value their community and to recognise different opportunities beyond the island.
- Leaders help pupils to value diversity in the world. This helps pupils to respect differences between people in the community.
- The nurturing culture ensures staff know pupils and families well. This helps them to notice when a pupil may need help.
- Pupils say that bullying is rare, and that staff help them to sort any friendship problems.
- Visitors broaden pupils' understanding about different future careers, especially in science.
- In early reading and mathematics across all the year groups, pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported appropriately. Their learning is scaffolded through extra adult support or adapted tasks so that they achieve well.
- Governors ensure that leaders have clear plans for improvement and that resources are managed well.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.
- The quality of our learning environments is a strength, and our displays, along with clearly labelled and readily available resources, help children with their learning and independence.
- The positive and respectful family culture throughout the school is a particular strength. The inspectors noticed the younger and older children playing well together at lunchtimes.
- Children have positive attitudes to learning.
- Strong focus on social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC), including through activities such as Inter Faith Week, links with the church and local youth group, and our music education and opportunities.
- Leaders have a clear vision and areas for development have been prioritised with appropriate staff training in place.

We have made amazing progress over the last two years and I am delighted that our effective actions so far have been identified. Due to the recent acceleration of Ofsted inspections, this Section 5 visit came sooner than expected. Although the overall effectiveness judgement isn't what we had hoped for, we are pleased that the report recognises that, where leaders and governors have been prioritising our improvement plans following the actions from the monitoring visit, there is evidence of effective action, and that, in our strategic plan, inspectors could see that, although there was a little way to go, the pathway was strong and we would shortly realise our ambitions.

This report clearly reflects our positive journey so far, and where we are heading, and I would like to extend a big thank you to all the children, staff and governors for their hard work over the past year and a half, especially during such turbulent times.

I am immensely proud of our staff team and all that we have achieved together. Thank you, also, to you as parents, for all your support.

We look forward to working more closely with all stakeholders (children, staff, governors, families, church, and members of the community) to continue to make Brighstone CE Aided Primary School a place where everyone is enabled to thrive and flourish in their own unique way!

With best wishes,

Mrs Rebecca Lennon
Headteacher