



MERSTONE SCHOOL

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Executive Head Teacher
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Dear Parents, Carers & Families,

I am delighted to write to inform you that following our recent Ofsted inspection Merstone School remains an **Outstanding one!**

The report highlights the following;

'Parents, staff and pupils all describe Merstone School as like a family. Pupils are looked after and learn well. Pupils enjoy coming to school. Staff know them well. The school has very high expectations for pupils.'

We are thrilled that the new curriculum that we have put into place has been recognised as a positive step forward;

The school 'have put a new curriculum in place so that these expectations are met. The curriculum has been redesigned into pathways that better match pupils' needs. The school knows its pupils incredibly well. This helps leaders to meticulously design subject curriculums that precisely meet the needs of pupils. The curriculum is well planned and well sequenced. The school has identified the important things that pupils need to know, to experience and to be able to do. As a result of this careful planning, pupils in all pathways have a curriculum that is expertly planned to match their needs. Pupils are supported exceptionally well.'

Behaviour is very well managed and pupils are taught to identify and manage their emotions well. Pupils learn about positive relationships and how to keep healthy in an age-appropriate way. This prepares pupils well for adulthood. The school understands that pupils may need additional help to manage puberty. It provides exceptional teaching, care and support to make sure that pupils learn about positive relationships and how to keep safe.'

Total Communication is a huge focus of the school, with staff working hard to ensure that all children have the correct tools. Ofsted recognise this stating;

'Communication is the foundation of the curriculum. In nursery and early years, staff work from children's starting points to identify and teach them to use communication systems and aids that allow them to express their wants and needs effectively. Throughout the school, teachers carefully adapt the communication curriculum to meet the needs of the pupils in their classes. As a result, pupils learn to communicate with increasing proficiency. Pupils at the early stages of reading are taught using an

appropriate phonics curriculum. Pupils learn to recognise and blend sounds when they are able. Teachers make sure that pupils who read fluently understand what they are reading. Other pupils experience reading through 'story massage' sessions, sensory stories and hearing rhymes and songs. As a result, pupils enjoy engaging with reading.'

As always, we strive to ensure that all our children have a voice in the school and the report recognises this commenting;

'Pupils know they are appreciated and valued. They are supported to have a voice. Pupils are encouraged to express their opinions, and these views are listened to by staff. The school council makes suggestions to improve the school. Governors and the head teacher consider these suggestions carefully.'

The result is truly pleasing for us all but I must thank the hard work of all of the staff team in the part that they play in ensuring our school continues to flourish!

We would like to thank you for the incredible support and positive comments that you gave and continue to give to us both through the inspection and at other times; they are greatly appreciated.

The full report can be accessed via the school website or Ofsted reports <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> (within the next 8 days).

Yours sincerely,

Donna Luck
Executive Head Teacher
Kindness, Patience, Compassion.