



Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Stuart Whiteland

Tuesday 25th March 2025

Welwyn St Mary's Primary School – Ofsted Report

We are delighted to share the results of our recent Ofsted inspection with you. This inspection was conducted under the significantly more rigorous framework that has been introduced since our last inspection, which was 12 years ago, in 2013. We are extremely pleased to inform you that our school has been graded as 'Good' in all areas, with an 'Outstanding' grade in Personal Development.

The current Ofsted framework, under which we were inspected in March, is a much more demanding and exacting framework than the previous one. Outstanding is now an even more challenging and precise judgement and it is expected that only a very small number of schools will attain this grade in each of the key areas, as schools will need to demonstrate themselves to be exceptional and a beacon school in particular aspects of the inspection.

This outcome then is a testament to the unwavering dedication and hard work of our leaders, staff, and pupils. The 'Outstanding' grade in Personal Development is particularly pleasing, as it highlights our commitment to fostering a supportive and enriching environment for our pupils. This ensures that they grow not only academically but also personally and socially, preparing them for the challenges of the future.

Since 2020, when Ofsted resumed inspecting schools previously judged as Outstanding, data shows that less than 1 in 5 schools have retained their Outstanding grade. This is even lower for primary schools, specifically. Therefore, we are particularly pleased that we have achieved 'Outstanding' in Personal Development under this framework and are proud of this significant accomplishment, which reflects the high standards we maintain in this crucial area.

Please do take the time to read through our Ofsted report, which we believe is wholly positive, fair and aligns closely with our own self-evaluation of the school. This report only captures a very small part of the professional dialogue that takes place over the two-day inspection, however, so we have decided to include some of the additional comments that were captured in our final feedback session with inspectors, who felt that our school was extremely strong and very close to meeting all of the criteria for Outstanding in each area:

“The provision for children in this school is really strong.”

“There are many, many strengths to this school.”

Quality of Education

“The school has a clear curriculum in place. The curriculum is ambitious and supports all groups of children including those with SEN. There is a very strong focus on reading across the curriculum.”



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Behaviour

“Leaders and staff across the school have high expectations for behaviour. Pupils are polite and articulate. Behaviour is generally very strong across the school.”

Personal development

“As soon as we walked into the school, we got the impression that Personal Development was really strong in this school. Leaders are passionate about it and go above and beyond to ensure that pupils are heard and understood.”

Leadership and Management

“There are really strong leaders in this school. Leaders are not complacent and want to improve.”

“Governors have a clear understanding of their roles and the key priorities of school. There is a clear schedule linking the work of governors to the work of the school.”

“Parents are really supportive of the school. They sing high praise for the school and its leaders. Parents are happy that standards have been maintained and taken forward.”

Early Years

“Provision is strong and the pattern is similar to that seen in the rest of the school. We have seen high-quality teaching and high-quality resources. The majority of children are really engaged and focused.”

Achieving 'Good' and 'Outstanding' grades in all areas under this Ofsted framework demonstrates our consistent performance and the quality of education we offer. It is a clear indication that we are meeting the high expectations set by Ofsted and are providing a well-rounded education for our pupils.

We are proud of our achievements and will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. The 'Good' and 'Outstanding' grades in all areas are evidence of the hard work and dedication of our entire school community, and we will continue to build on this success.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children and staff for their hard work, not just during but always, in school, and you for your continued support and trust in our school. Your partnership is invaluable, and together, we will continue to provide a nurturing and high-quality educational experience for all our pupils.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Whiteland
Headteacher



Reverend David Munchin
Chair of Governors

