



# Drake Primary School

## OFSTED 2021

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## Introduction

Drake Primary School welcomed a team of three OFSTED inspectors, who were quality assured remotely by HMI, visited Drake Primary and Little Pirates Child Care<sup>1</sup>. The Inspectors joined us for two days of monitoring on Tuesday 16th November 2021. During their visit they interviewed senior leaders, including governors, teachers, support staff and families. They talked extensively with children about their view of school and a parent questionnaire was sent out to families, giving a brief opportunity to give their views to the OFSTED team. The team reviewed the schools website and accessed key strategic information through documents shared on the OFSTED Portal. OFSTED have provided a summary of their findings including their recommendations for next steps. You can read the full report here [Drake Primary School](#).

### Headlines from our report

Students at Drake Primary School were praised for their good attitudes to learning, they demonstrated real care for children with special educational needs, showing respect and understanding.

The team praised Drake for the good transition it has made from an infant school to a full primary school, given the challenges of a pandemic and the increased expectations in the standards since 2013 and the previous inspection framework. Inspectors stated

*“Decisions here are always made in the best interest of the children”.*

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<sup>1</sup> Drake Primary School and Little Pirates Childcare, where a world of opportunities awaits  
Our school and curriculum must reflect the world: past, present and future, in all its diversity

We unlock opportunity and inspire everyone.

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The team evidenced the school's determination for all children to succeed,

*"Staff share the head teacher's passion and ambition for all children."*

*Ofsted report 16th 17th November 2021 states that:*

*One pupil said "we are all special for who we are."*

*"Pupils learn in a calm, inviting environment."*

*"Pupils do their best to meet the high standards set by their teachers, they are respectful of other beliefs and opinions."*

Ofsted chose to take a 'Deep Dive' into maths, RSHE, D&T and reading. Our new maths curriculum was praised "(It)... is developed well and particularly well-implemented - right from the early years through to year 6, pupils are well-prepared for the next phase in their education." Inspectors praised the school's work through the pandemic, and the significant work that has taken place to support children's mental health and wellbeing. They noted that students developed detailed knowledge, they said children were confident and articulate young people ready to express their feelings and were able to use examples from previous lessons and year groups to describe their learning journey.

Throughout the inspection, the team recognised the school's focus on cultural capital and the real commitment from leaders to ensure well-planned opportunities for all students' and staff's personal development, whether through provision for the arts, outdoor learning, educational visits or the use of experts in a range of fields.

The school's pastoral team was praised:

*"The school has rigorous systems in place to keep pupils safe. Leaders keep detailed records. They are tenacious in following up concerns, so pupils receive the help they need. They work closely with other agencies to make sure vulnerable pupils receive the right support. Staff are well trained. They understand the risks pupils may face as they grow up, both online and offline. They know what to do if they have a concern. Pupils say they feel safe. They talk confidently*

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*about what they learn in lessons and assemblies, such as bullying, harassment and online safety."*

## **Early Years at Drake**

Inspectors noted that pupils in Reception class are well looked after, teachers know the needs of the children well, what they need to know and how to develop the children's curiosity. Inspectors noted that teachers have used knowledge from the new baseline system to assess children on entry to Reception and used this to inform planning.

Inspectors noted a focus on stories and vocabulary in the development of the curriculum. Leaders have ensured that progression from the baby room in the on-site nursery through the reception year group. They went on to praise the logical sequence and progression evident in both the curriculum planning and assessment, as a result students make a good transition to the national curriculum in Year One.

*"Teachers make sure pupils have a lot of opportunities to practice their reading. Pupils apply what they know so they can read fluently."* Ofsted report 16th & 17th November 2021

Inspectors were pleased to note that children were encouraged to be independent, for example incorporating learning to use a knife and fork during play activities which enabled independence at lunchtimes. Children developed Characteristics of Effective Learning through their ability to sustain concentration and think critically. This was evidenced when children were building using construction materials in the outdoor area.

## **Areas of focus for this coming term**

- Firstly, Ofsted have asked us to continue to develop our Design & Technology curriculum in the same way we have developed the rest of our Drake curriculum. Our plans to grow STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) as part of a joint curriculum project with Warren Services was already underway at the time

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of the inspection. Miss Ware, Ms. Claydon-Kerslake and Mrs Goff are working together on this project.

- Secondly, Ofsted noted the good SEND practice at our school and the use of the One Page Profiles for students who have Special Educational Needs. They have asked us to continue to develop them further. Teachers have already undertaken a review of One Page Profiles to ensure they are consistent.

We would like to thank all our families for their support and acknowledge the key role they have played in contributing to such a positive report.

Well done to all the staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure Drake is a wonderful place to be.