

Ofsted Report

As you are aware Ofsted recently visited Willow Tree Primary School. During their visit they observed learning in different year groups and different subjects; spoke to children linked to their learning; interviewed leaders, members of our academy trust and school staff. We are delighted to tell you that the inspectors loved our school and have

graded us as a **GOOD** school!

This is a testament to all the hard work your children and our staff put in every day to ensure that Willow Tree provides the best educational experiences possible for all! We would just like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to you, our parents as none of this would have been possible without your continued support.



What is it like to attend this school?

The school's motto: '**Small school, big heart**' is evident in everything Willow Tree Primary does for its pupils. Pupils are **polite** and **friendly** to visitors, they **behave well** in lessons and around the school. All pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), are **proud** of their school. Pupils enjoy school and they said that they **feel safe**.



What does this school do well?

Since the school joined the Vantage Academy Trust, leaders have worked systematically and successfully to **improve the quality of education** that pupils receive. Leaders know that teaching reading effectively is the key to pupils' success across the curriculum. Children in the early years, and pupils in key stage 1, are now taught to read by staff with **expert phonic knowledge**.



Leaders are improving the delivery of the mathematics curriculum. They have introduced new textbooks and training to support staff in ensuring that the **curriculum is coherent**. Specialist teachers are employed as coaches for music and physical education. They work well with staff to develop their subject knowledge in these areas. They are performing for their parents in a concert demonstrating what they have learned and remembered.

Children in the Reception Year enjoy a spacious, well-resourced classroom and outdoor area. Staff encourage children to engage with adults and each other well. **Relationships are strong** and children are attentive.

Staff are confident in using leaders' assessment systems to identify what pupils know and can remember. They are **quick to address pupils' misconceptions** in learning.

Pupils with SEND are **identified and supported effectively**. Typically, pupils with SEND achieve well.



Pupils conduct themselves appropriately in lessons and around the school site. **Learning is rarely disrupted**. However, some pupils do not attend school regularly enough to benefit from the good quality of education on offer.

The personal, social, health and economic education **curriculum is well designed**. Pupils enjoy a wide range of enrichment activities that enhance the curriculum.

How safe are your children?

The arrangements for safeguarding are **effective**.

- Leaders have developed a **strong culture of safeguarding** in the school.
- Regular staff training ensures that adults are alert to any changes in pupils' behaviour or demeanour.
- Staff teach pupils about keeping themselves safe. **Record-keeping by staff is rigorous.**



- Leaders monitor records closely. Importantly, as well as completing records, the staff at Willow Tree talk to each other about the pupils in their care and how they are doing.
- They **know all the pupils and their families well** and are quick to act and to offer support, including from external agencies, when required.

What can we do to further improve Willow Tree?

Some pupils' rates of attendance are not as high as they should be. This prevents these pupils from experiencing all that the school offers. Leaders should continue to work with these pupils to ensure that they attend school more regularly.

Younger pupils are not given enough practice to learn to print their letters. Older pupils are not taught to write legibly as they progress through the school. Leaders and staff should work together to agree how to improve pupils' handwriting.