

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

## **Brentside Primary Academy- Ofsted Inspection Outcome**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, our school was visited on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February by Ofsted. This was our first Ofsted inspection since 2012, under a significantly different inspection framework than was used at that time. Given that Ofsted have stated their intention to reduce the number of schools graded as 'Outstanding', we knew that retaining this one-word judgement would be a challenge.

However, the school has been committed to continuing to drive school improvement and strive for the very best outcomes for all our pupils, given the challenges that we have faced in recent years and the difficulties and barriers many of our families and pupils still continue to face.

The report from the inspection is attached to this letter. The overall judgement from the inspection was 'Good', however we received an 'Outstanding' judgement in the area of Personal Development.

We are incredibly proud of the whole school community; staff, pupils, and parents, who came together during the two day inspection. Our staff, many of whom had never experienced a formal inspection before, welcomed the inspection team warmly and worked hard to show, typically, what it is like to be a member of this school. I am proud of each and every one of them and how they handled the pressures that an inspection can put on individuals. Pupils were positive about the school, spoke confidently and positively to the inspectors, and showed kindness to each other and responsibility for their own learning, and I am very proud of how they conducted themselves over the two days. A thank you, too, to the parents who completed the parent view section on the Ofsted website, and to those who spoke to the inspectors in the playground during the inspection.

We think that it is appropriate to comment on the scrutiny the approach and framework of Ofsted and the school inspection system has come under in recent months: Schools have been through momentous changes and faced enormous pressure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and continue to face an increasing level of expected accountability for their school community. Yet, the Ofsted framework has remained unchanged and does not appear to take into account the context of a school setting, or the unique challenges they may face.

We are the same school we were yesterday under an overall 'Outstanding' judgement as we are today under an overall 'Good' judgement. Please do read the report and make your own assessment of the school, rather than looking only at a one-word judgement made over a two day inspection.

We would like to highlight and celebrate some of the positive comments that the inspectors noted in the report:

- Adults and children describe the school as a 'safe haven' for the community.
- Leaders have high expectations for pupils' achievement.
- Pupils demonstrate exemplary character.
- Pupils' wider personal development is exceptional.
- Leaders have planned an extensive programme which complements the school ethos.
- Pupils are keen to learn and demonstrate positive attitudes to their learning.

**Brentside Primary Academy**

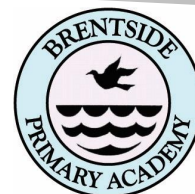
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# BRENTSIDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Putting Children First

**Headteacher:** Caroline Crosdale



We were encouraged that the areas of improvement that the inspectors recommended are areas already currently outlined in our School Development Plan and on which we are already working. This is available to view on our school website: <https://www.brentsideprimaryacademy.co.uk/school-development-plan/>

We will continue our journey, as always, to be at the forefront of delivering the very best curriculum, offering opportunities, and developing skills that our pupils will take into their future lives.

If you wish to speak to me about the report, I will be available to do so on Parents' Evening in a few weeks' time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support for your children and for the school community.

Yours faithfully,

Caroline Crosdale  
Head Teacher

Eilidh MacRae  
Chair of Governors

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