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14th December 2021

Dear Parents

As you know we were inspected by Ofsted on Wednesday 3 November 2021 and I am delighted to tell you that we were judged as remaining as a 'Good' school. Whilst the written report states that we continue to be a good school I was reassured by the inspectors during the day that we are in fact a very strong good, rather than just a middling good.

I have attached the final Ofsted Inspection report for your convenience but as of Friday 17 December it will be available on the Ofsted website – google Find an Inspection Report and fill in the details.

Whilst the report has a limited word count and can only say so much, I thought I would share the comments made by Ofsted during the day which are perhaps not on the written report. The inspectors spoke very strongly about our school and how it is a 'special place'.

- Phonics/ reading is well led and there is high ambition from staff for all pupils (including SEN)
- Leaders promote a love of reading across school
- Staff have benefitted from high quality professional development
- Geography is 'very real' and explores the diversity of the world. It is taught and led creatively and with imagination, drawing on the children's passions. Children love geography and teachers have very good subject knowledge.
- There are clear and very strong links between all subjects within the curriculum. There are clear, structured sequences for all learning with teachers being ambitious for all learners.
- There is a good breadth of subjects taught and children gain deep knowledge and understanding from these subjects.
- Pupil books were of a high standard and children could articulate very well what they had learned.
- Pupils make very good progress and Year 6 pupils are well prepared for High School.
- Safeguarding systems are robust with detailed written reports and good staff training.
- *Children feel safe and looked after by Sabden staff. Parents stated that their children*

Headteacher Elizabeth Maskell
B.Ed (Hons), N.P.Q.H.

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- Pupils spoke to inspectors about going 'above and beyond' with their own behaviour and manners with certain behaviour being seen as the standard, the expected – e.g. Holding the door open for an adult, saying please and thank you.
- School goes well beyond the academic curriculum in our offer to pupils – trips, visitors, after school enrichment clubs and charity fundraising all being mentioned positively. School has provided strong provision for the wider curriculum and experiences.
- Pupils were very knowledgeable about British Values and could talk in depth about this matter.
- Staff reported both their wellbeing and workload as good and that school leaders who work hard to mitigate workload are approachable and supportive.

As with any Ofsted inspection there are always recommendations for what we could do better. We had 2 areas which were deemed to be less effective on the day – the planning of Spanish and that four pupils struggled with their reading book.

Spanish – Currently a scheme of work is in place and all KS2 pupils are taught each week. Up until Summer the lessons were taught by a specialist linguist whose first language was Spanish. We also offered two Spanish after school clubs. As a result of the inspection findings, we are now looking to enhance the Spanish curriculum on offer to children and have bought a new scheme of work which we will follow.

Reading Fluency – Inspectors asked to hear children read who were in the lower 20% reading ability in school. Four out of these 7 children invited to read to the inspectors were not as fluent or as confident as we know them to be. As a result of the inspection findings, we are re-evaluating the way we assess reading fluency in EYFS and KS1 for our lowest 20% of pupils.

As a staff team we immediately consulted on the findings above and have already fully addressed these areas for improvement.

All in all Sabden has been judged to be a happy, safe, effective and special school which provides a broad and ambitious curriculum for all children. The school is well led, staff are happy and children positive. Thank you to all of the parents who made the parent survey findings so successful and who will hopefully continue to support the school as it continues to go from strength to strength.

Have a very Merry Christmas.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Maskell
Headteacher

