

Alma Primary was inspected on June 4th and 5th 2015, by HMI Andrew Wright.
This was the school's first Ofsted inspection since opening in September 2013.

Ofsted inspect schools under four main areas: Leadership and management; Behaviour and safety of pupils; Quality of teaching and Achievement of pupils. In addition, the early years provision in Reception was reported on separately. Following the inspection we received a very positive report, in which **the school was judged to be good in all five categories** of the inspection.

The inspector wrote that the *'school's focus on kindness, inclusion and the quest for understanding is well communicated and upheld by leaders. Leaders ensure pupils understand that they have choices and rights... This is preparing them well for their future lives in Britain.'*

The school was judged to be outstanding in two sub-categories:

About provision for children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural education the inspector wrote that *'Pupils are given excellent opportunities to reflect on the moral dimensions of their actions. They benefit from activities which allow them to learn how people from cultures other than their own choose to live.'*

In addition, the report noted the high quality of the school's work to keep pupils safe and secure is outstanding, commenting *'The curriculum provides a rich and very effective range of opportunities to help pupils learn to make choices with safety in mind. This is especially true of the work done to help pupils stay safe when using the internet.'*

Leadership and management

With regard to **Leadership and Management**, the inspector noted that *'The headteacher communicates a determined drive for excellence and strong values. He has been successful in leading the development of the school... Staff and pupils are motivated by his leadership.'*

Leadership also refers to the work of the Governing Body. The Inspector met with a large number of Governors and reported that they *'gather a broad range of information about the school on which to base their views... They ask searching questions which hold leaders closely to account.'*

The inspector also noted that our extended school activities (Breakfast Club and After School Care) provide children *'with stimulating activities, healthy food and a caring atmosphere'*.

Behaviour and safety

Under the **Behaviour and Safety** section of the report, the inspector noted that children *'want to live up to the high expectations of behaviour of the school. Teachers make sure pupils understand why they should behave well. This helps them to be considerate of and kind to others when choosing how to behave when they play outside'*

As noted above, the inspector also rated this area as **outstanding** because of the ways in which children are taught to keep themselves safe.

The evidence provided through discussions with parents and from the large number of responses to the parent view questionnaire, enabled the report to conclude that parents 'agree that the behaviour of pupils is good. They say that their children enjoy coming to school and thrive on the high expectations of, and care provided by, staff.'

Quality of teaching

In the section on the **Quality of teaching**, the report notes that 'Teachers and support staff use a systematic approach which focuses on key skills... The wide range of opportunities teachers provide for pupils to read widely and often in many subjects promotes achievement well.'

The inspector also noted the ways in which teachers 'use practical resources imaginatively to secure good progress' and that 'consistently good teaching enables pupils to sustain good progress from their individual starting points in reading, writing and mathematics.'

Achievement of pupils

Under the **Achievement of Pupils**, the report comments

Consistently good teaching, which continues in Year 1, enables pupils to sustain good progress from their individual starting points in reading, writing and mathematics

Most-able pupils make good progress so that many exceed a good level of development by the end of the Reception year and build further on this in Year 1.

With regard to SEN, the inspector noted that children who have Special Educational Needs make very good progress because 'the views of specialist professionals are sought and acted upon when deciding on appropriate additional help for them'

Early Years

Finally, in reporting on the **Early years provision**, the inspector noted the excellent achievement of children in 2014, identifying that the good levels of development exceeded those attained nationally and that 'the proportion exceeding this good level was above national averages. Evidence from the current year indicates that achievement has improved further.' The inspector concluded that this was because 'Advice from adults and carefully considered visual guidance helps children understand how to explore the setting and practice their emerging skills'

Next Steps

The report identified two key objectives to help the school improve further, which we are now working to address:

- Develop the skills of leaders responsible for subjects, so that they demonstrate a very strong impact on raising standards in this growing school.
- Improve teaching by providing feedback to pupils in all subjects to help them make work even better and re-shaping lessons in some areas to offer even more challenging work.