

ELMFIELD SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

PRIMARY & EARLY YEARS

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Dear parents/carers

I am pleased to inform you that we have now received the Ofsted report from our two-day section 8 inspection on the 10th and 11th May 2023. The purpose of a section 8 inspection is to assess whether a school continues to be 'good', or to ascertain whether there is evidence to suggest a school is above or below its original grading.



I am delighted to inform you that the inspection findings were very positive and Elmfield School for Deaf Children has maintained its 'Good' rating, continuing to be a **good school**.

Ofsted have recognised that the school enables pupils to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be deaf and that pupils are proud of their deaf identity. In describing what it is like to attend this school, Ofsted stated that pupils feel safe and trust that they can make mistakes, take risks and interact fully with those around them. Staff support pupils with the bi-lingual nature of successful communication, using spoken English and British Sign Language (BSL). Pupils are encouraged to express their views and opinions and that we help prepare pupils well for their next steps.

They go on to recognise how expectations of pupils are high, pupils responding positively to this and behave well because of the strong relationships staff have with them. The care and nurture from adults is clear. Many parents agree, with one parent commenting that their child's most 'wonderful and unforgettable moments' have been at Elmfield.

The inspectors highlighted what we do well and that:

- Leaders are ambitious for pupils and aspirational in their outlook.
- We are dedicated to ensure that pupils' deafness, as well as any additional special educational need and/or disability (SEND), is not a barrier to success.
- We take full advantage of the opportunities of being co-located with a secondary school, capitalising on this to be ambitious in the range of subjects offered.
- There are also strong links with local primary schools. This enables pupils to immerse themselves with a diverse range of peers.
- We are knowledgeable about the support and adaptations that pupils need to overcome barriers to learning.
- We use education, health and care (EHC) plans and accurate knowledge of pupils' needs to design precise learning plans.
- We ensure that pupils' needs are met, and teach strategies to help them learn successfully.
- We have strengthened our approach to how pupils learn to read, write and use their speaking and listening skills. This comes through combined use of BSL, sign supported English and visual phonics. This enables pupils to learn in a way that best suits them, while increasing their skills and understanding in the other methods.

- We accurately assess pupils' starting points in these aspects of language learning. We design learning to address gaps that have formed as a result of varying previous learning experiences.

In addition, the report praises:

- Pupils' wider development is a strength of what the school offers. Pupils' learning is enriched by a wealth of experiences. These are carefully considered to increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world around them. They are well prepared to be active participants in society. We arrange visitors into school, involvement in the local area and activities and events that strengthen pupils' character and interests.
- Our safeguarding is effective and we make sure that the safety and welfare of pupils is a high priority, working closely with families to provide the right support at the earliest opportunity.

As a school community we are and should be very proud of this report and the way that it reflects life at Elmfield and the amazing work that we do every single day.

Ofsted have identified two areas for us to further improve. Governors need to further hold us to account over the quality of the curriculum pupils learn and we must ensure that teachers' subject-specific knowledge and expertise is as strong as their knowledge of SEND.

We had already put improvement plans in place to address these areas before the inspection and so are reassured that we are on the right path for the school's future.

This is indeed a welcome report for staff, students, parents and governors. Do take the time to read it with your child. The link to the report is found at the bottom of this letter. For the BSL version, there is a QR code and also a link at the bottom of this letter.

The report will also be published on the official Ofsted report website in the coming days.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Kate Persaud
Headteacher

Our school link to ofsted page is

[Elmfield School for Deaf Children - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

The BSL for this letter is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaEPnbIFbug&feature=youtu.be>

The BSL of Ofsted report is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tP65Pifl6w&feature=youtu.be>



QR Code for full report