



# Carrington Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The Ofsted letter from our recent monitoring inspection is due to be published on the internet shortly, and a copy has been sent to you along with this letter.

We are pleased to say that the inspection picked up many of the important changes that have taken place during the 18 months since the last Ofsted visit in 2022. We would like to thank all staff for all the work they have done in this short space of time to drive learning forward.

In their letter, Ofsted made many positive comments about the school:

***'You have prioritised phonics for pupils who are in the early stages of reading.'***

***'There are strong systems for the identification of pupils with SEND. The school has trained staff to understand how best to meet the needs of pupils with SEND within the classroom environment.'***

***'Pupils with SEND are integrated into school life and there is a strong sense of inclusion.'***

***'You are resolute in the importance of providing a good quality of education.'***

***'Clear plans are in place for the development journey of the school.'***

The effective work of governors in supporting the school and all staff was also praised.

Since the last Ofsted inspection in 2022, we have:

- started to use a brand-new phonics scheme,
- completely revised the whole school curriculum for non-core areas and adapted it for our local context,
- had an external review of SEND practices,
- completed curriculum leader training for all teachers,
- worked with local authority school improvement officers on a regular basis,
- increased the regularity of training for teaching assistants,
- adapted our assessment and monitoring, particularly around children who find it harder to learn,
- changed interventions so that more maths takes place in school hours, and there are more spaces for children in the morning maths groups, which are now led by teachers,
- increased our sports provisions and places in our extra-curricular clubs,
- increased the personal mentoring and support available in school for children.

The inspector recognised the work that has gone into improving phonics over the last year. We recognise that, as per the feedback we were given, 'there was some variability' in the sessions seen on the inspection day. While inspections do not examine progress data, we would like to share with our parents the success we had using this phonics scheme last year; within 2022-23 the number of children needing additional phonics support improved from 23% at the start of the year to 7% by the end of the year, with the majority of those children being towards the end of needing support. This is a huge improvement.

When considering if the children know more and remember more, the inspector sat with a group of Year 6 children and the planning overviews from the previous year and asked them questions about their learning. The children did a brilliant job of answering the inspector's questions and remembering their learning well (from as far back as last autumn), but the inspector felt that teachers still have more to do in order that the children can talk about the particular skills and knowledge they had learned in more detail, as well as the activities they had completed. Work has already been completed by teachers to ensure a sharper focus on these skills and knowledge elements of subjects as we move into the Spring Term.

In 2023, we worked with external advisors, teachers and teaching assistants to develop an agreed framework for learning and called this 'The Carrington Way'. As with other elements of the recent changes to school, we are still building consistency in the use of this framework across all subjects.

As last year was a year which saw an incredible rate of change, school leaders had already identified that this year was going to be a year of improving the consistency of the good things that we are now doing at Carrington Junior School. This focus was agreed with the inspector who visited us and you will see this in the letter the inspector has written.

We would like to thank all families who took the time to complete the parent survey during the inspection, and to those who wrote to the inspector directly.

Thank you for your support as we make improvements to the school, to continue to give the children who come here as many opportunities as possible, and support them in striving to achieve the best outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Sheddick  
Co-chair of Governors



Jane Wright  
Co-chair of Governors

Emma Cameron  
Head Teacher

