



Bernards Heath Junior School

Watson Avenue, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 5HP

Tel: 01727 856262 Fax: 01727 856355

E-mail: admin@bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk

www.bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Darren Armoogum BSc PGCE

Deputy Head: Mr John Reynolds BSc QTS

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Ofsted: Final Report

The school's Ofsted report has now been published and attached to this communication. You can read the report [here](#) by the end of the week.

Schools are evaluated in four areas and are then given an overall grade. This is how Bernards Heath Junior School was judged:

Overall, the school was rated Good, with outstanding features.

Quality of education: Good
Behaviour and attitudes: Outstanding
Personal Development: Outstanding
Leadership and management: Good

Safeguarding was judged as effective at BHJS.

The lead inspector told the leadership team that Bernards Heath is "good good", and very close to achieving an outstanding rating overall.

The inspectors gave the senior leadership team extensive feedback, which was overwhelmingly positive. A few key highlights for governors were:

"Pupils thrive at this purposeful, happy and nurturing school."

"Strong, positive relationships between staff and pupils are at the heart of the school. Staff really do 'know every child'".

"Pupils enjoy interesting lessons taught by skilled teachers."

"Pupil behaviour and attitudes are exemplary."

"Pupils value each other as friends and learning partners."

This all reflects the school's ethos and the way the leadership sees the school. We are incredibly proud that the focus on broad personal development and "knowing every child" were recognised.

The inspectors also commented on the very high numbers of parents who responded to the parent satisfaction survey and the very positive comments. You can read the results [here](#).

They said that this level of satisfaction is almost unprecedented. So a "thank you" to parents who responded, and showed that the work the school does is recognised. Your comments are very much appreciated.

The school's leadership feel that the rating is fair, and are pleased that our own self-assessment matches that of the inspectors. The two points for improvement Ofsted suggested were already in our school development plan, and refinement of these is well underway. We feel reassured that we understand our school, its strengths and areas for improvement, and that we are moving in the right direction.

When considering the overwhelmingly positive feedback, some parents may wonder why the school has moved from an outstanding to a good rating.

The inspection framework has changed since our last inspection, 15 years ago. Bernards Heath Junior School was last inspected in 2008. Then, 20 percent of schools were given outstanding ratings. Now, it is just 5 percent. It was noted by the inspectors, that despite the change in rating, the school has clearly made significant progress since the last inspection.

An Ofsted inspection is not a "pass/fail" test. It is more like a health check-up, which tells us what we are doing well and where improvement is needed. We know that Bernards Heath is an "amazing" school, which produces happy, confident children, and we feel proud this is reflected in the inspection report.

SATS results are very high, and on many of the other metrics governors and leaders use the school is excellent. One-word Ofsted gradings are eye-catching, but they are just a part of the way we judge the school which – like all schools – has a unique context and set of challenges which inspections do not necessarily capture.

At the heart of all of this though, is our children. During the inspection, they carried on normally, as they would any other day, and impressed the inspectors with their discussions alongside their polite, caring and hard-working nature.

Finally, and importantly, we want to thank all the staff for their hard work preparing for the inspection, and during it. As parents will be aware, it is a highly stressful experience, and involves a vast amount of time and effort. The governors are hugely grateful to the staff for their work on the inspection, and all they do for the children.

We know that staff are relieved to have the inspection over with, and are already working hard to take the school forward in the next stage of its evolution.

Regards

Jeremy Hazlehurst

Co-chair of governors