

Overview

A warm welcome was given immediately on arrival in this friendly, happy and family orientated large primary school. Quality Safeguarding measures and protocols were implemented with ease. Parents and their children were in reception area being seen by staff in a friendly and meaningful way. Lots of smiles and laughter, what a great way to start the day!!

Three sets of parents willingly gave up their time to discuss their child's school, between them, they have seen the school change over the last couple of years from one where they felt they had to 'fight' to be heard and listened to – to now where they are extremely supportive of the school and the holistic approach that all the staff have in enabling their children to make academic and social progress. 'My child now runs into school – whereas before it was a struggle'. 'My children now thrive on the structure of the school day and really look forward to being at school'. The parents felt that Northwood Park Primary School (NWPPS) is 'friendly, open and helpful' not just to them as parents but also across the school and its families. 'The school is really inclusive and has positive clear communication with parents – email, phone calls or in person.'

As my day continued, it is quickly evident that all the staff and their children live by the 'Be Kind, Be Brave, Be Proud' which are the values and expectations that underpin the school, where everyone works together to achieve these expectations throughout the busy day and over the demanding academic year. Staff are empowered now to use their initiative, as they have a clear staffing structure, and everyone knows and understands their roles and responsibilities. As one member of staff said, 'I can make decisions as I know what my senior leaders want.' 'The Senior Leadership Team explain 'the why & the how's' so that we can all work as a team of staff – it's a happier and productive place to work – all the staff are on the same page now – it's great.' 'Everyone works for each other, and you can ask anybody for help.' Staff work tirelessly to enable each child to be in a place where they can transform their lives to become who they want to be and be positive members of the community – nothing is too much trouble to help support, guide and encourage each child to be themselves and look after each other – gaining in trust, positive friendships and confidence to shine.

Furthermore, modelled by the staff and demonstrated by the children, everyone at NWPPS also embraces the SHINE Trusts values of being 'collaborative, courageous and compassionate' which encourage them to be kind, ambitious, honest, independent, resilient and creative in all aspects of their school life from Reception to the end of Key Stage 2. These values, expectations and attributes underpin and promotes knowledge, learning of new skills and personal development for each child across this increasing in size primary school. (Since September 2025 – the school has taken on 2 'bulge' classes, each in 2 different year groups, as numbers rise in the area and the Local Authority recognise the success that this school is now having as a truly inclusive school for everyone – 'making Northwood Park Primary School a happy, healthy and caring place to be'. (SHINE 2025)) From doors being opened without hesitation for each other; positive interactions between all staff and children in and out of the classroom; helping to tidy up and helping others to ensure that each staff request is completed to high standards. Children are encouraged to be independent as possible (per stage) but also



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request help when they need it as seen in each of the lesson drop ins that were part of the guided tour with the IQM Coordinator. Each year group area has its own space to support learning, develop independent emotional regulation, and year group resources, with every inch utilised to make things better for the children.

Student voice was made up from a selection of children from different year groups and areas of this fully integrated school. They liked their learning especially in science, reading, art, PE and history. They relish the clubs that are on offer at lunchtimes, including being able to be on the computers to improve their Times Tables Rock Stars!! This group of children were respectful of each other and their answers, they were patient with each other when they got flustered and they were all clear that they liked learning new things and that the staff were there to help them and that they understood them as individuals. As one child said, 'I don't need or want anything to change at this school – as we have got everything'. They really enjoy the new rewards system and that their parents can see their points via the Class Dojo system. One child suggested that it would be lovely if the school had a school mascot for the younger children and ideally it would be a lion as we take pride in our selves & part of our British culture.' They liked the therapy dog Eric who comes into school on a regular basis from an external provider. They found this to be comforting and enabled them to be in their happy place too. In essence, this group of children were typical of what was seen on an extensive tour of the school – these happy, calm, relaxed children, who were confident to talk to a visitor with clarity, thoughtful and insightful answers and opinions, willing to take it in turns to talk, respecting the voice of others and make life an easier place to be in, this large primary school of over 600 learners.

Northwood Park Primary School now has a whole environment (classroom organisation & Year Group Corridors), including the displays in classrooms, corridors and reception, as well as the structured play areas in the outdoor space are fantastic spaces where students feel safe and secure, knowing that they are wanted and valued by each other. They now have the staffing structure to ensure that they attend and deliver at the termly IQM cluster networking days to share their good practice that is being embedded as part of the positive culture of the school and Trusts ethos.

The leadership of this school and the staff are fully committed to inclusion and making their primary school the best that it can be. (It is fair to say that the Headteacher over the last 2 years in post, has had to undertake challenging tasks and make difficult decisions but for the benefit of each child that is in her school's care. Her and her team of staff are now embedding good practice in every aspect of school life.) They empower each other to ensure that each child has the best holistic educational offer and skill up each child to have a set of learning tools so that they can access to the best of their abilities the extensive curriculum and enrichment offer.

It has been a delight to return and see so much progress over the last 12 months. I am very much looking forward to seeing even more progress as this school continues to go from strength to strength over the coming years.

The school continues to move from strength to strength in terms of its superb inclusive practice and I am firmly of the opinion that the school fully meets the standard required by the Inclusion Quality Mark to pursue Flagship School status. I therefore recommend



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that the school moves to Flagship Status and is reviewed again in 12 months. The next review will look closely at how the school has interacted with its Inclusion Cluster and promoted continuing outreach. Evidence of cluster working will underpin the capacity for the school to maintain its Flagship status.

Assessor: Mrs Kirsty Rogers

Findings confirmed by Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd:

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