



Ofsted 11th and 12th June 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, it is our mission to provide an educational journey and experience that is second to none, to be a beacon in our communities and to leave our children and families with the lasting impact of a fulfilled potential and a lifelong love of learning. In providing excellent educational services we aim to become the school of choice in our local area and provide a place where children can thrive educationally and personally day after day.

Today we are delighted to finally share with you the findings of our recent Ofsted Inspection where Ofsted have recognised Discovery Academy is a **'Good School'**.

The opening point in the report highlights exactly where we would wish to be at the beginning of our journey, encompassing many of our values in particular caring, improving and achieving.

*'Since the school opened, trustees, leaders and governors have worked well to establish a **happy, caring school** where pupils are **taught effectively** and make **good progress**. Leaders have carefully managed the expansion in pupil numbers and staffing. They have made sure that the **quality of provision is strong and improving**, and the school's **positive culture** is embedded in the daily life of the school.'*

There are 11 pages to the report which I have summarised below.

Leadership and management:

- Leaders, staff and governors share a **passion** to ensure that the school provides the **best education** possible for pupils.
- Leaders have developed a curriculum which is **broad and balanced** and provides activities which **interest and engage** pupils in their learning.
- Leaders make effective use of the funding for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As a result, **pupils make good progress**.
- The funding for disadvantaged pupils is used effectively. Barriers to learning are identified... **effective support** is put in place to **ensure that barriers are overcome**.
- The primary sports funding is used successfully... As a result, **pupils' physical skills and enjoyment of exercise have improved**.
- Governors share senior leaders' **high expectations** and **passion for improvement**.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are **effective**.

Teaching, Learning and assessment:

- Staff establish **very positive relationships** with pupils. This helps to **build pupils' confidence** and contributes to their **positive attitudes to learning**.
- Teachers have a **good knowledge** of pupils' skills and capabilities. They use this information successfully to provide activities that are interesting and **develop learning effectively**.

- Phonics is taught **successfully**. Teaching of reading is **good**.
- Staff question pupils well to **challenge** their thinking.
- Teaching **effectively deepens** pupils understanding of number, shape and space. Teaching **challenges pupils to apply** their skills to solve problems.

Pupil outcomes:

- As a result of effective teaching, current pupils make **good progress across a range of subjects**. Progress is strongest in reading and mathematics.
- Pupils make **good progress** in their phonic knowledge from their starting points.
- Disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND make **good progress** as teaching is **closely matched** to their needs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare:

- The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is **good**.
- Pupils **thrive** in the **warm and caring** environment provided. Leaders work well to **develop pupils' emotional well-being**.
- The behaviour of pupils is **good**. Pupils **behave well** in lessons and around school. They listen closely to instructions and **cooperate happily** with other pupils to share ideas.
- Pupils say that **pupils behave well** in school. Pupils report that there is no bullying in school, **'because we all look out for each other and care'**.
- Attendance is **above average** and reflects pupils' **enjoyment of school**.

EYFS:

- Teaching is **good**. As a result, children make **good progress**.
- Children **thrive** in the inviting environment provided.
- Staff question children **well** to make them think and **extend their learning**.
- Children are **well prepared** for the transfer to Year 1.
- Staff establish a **positive partnership** with parents.
- Children behave **extremely well**. Children have **positive relationships** with each other and **cooperate well** in, for example, imaginative play.

Obviously as a new school we have some areas for future development, but each of these areas were reflected in the Academy's own evaluation of the school and have already begun to be addressed. The impact is yet to be seen but will focus our drive for improvement during 2019/20.

Everyone at Discovery Academy thanks you for the amazing support we have from the school community. The amount of parental responses to Ofsted was fantastic, through Parent view, text service and face to face discussions and provided excellent discussion points with the inspector. We urge you to continue working alongside us to ensure the pupils receive the very **'best education'** we can provide.

You can find the full report attached and also on the Discovery Academy Website <http://discoveryacademyhyde.org/> under the Ofsted tab.

We are exceptionally proud of this very positive first Ofsted report and we now look forward to continuing on our journey towards outstanding.

Kindest regards,



Beverley Oldham, Associate Principal.