



Monday 20th January 2025

Re. Our Ofsted Report

Dear parents/carers,

I have pleasure in sharing with you, a copy of the report from our recent Ofsted inspection in the final week of Autumn Term. As you will read, the report is incredibly positive and celebrates all that our school has to offer, as well as a couple of 'areas for improvement' which we already knew about. For me, when the lead inspector said, 'I'd be delighted to send my own children to Appleton Roebuck', we got a real sense of just how strong our school is.

As with all Ofsted reports, the lead inspector is limited by words and a framework in what they can include within the report. For this reason, it's important that we celebrate some of the key strengths of our school, taken directly from the 'outstanding' sections of the grade descriptors.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage

Inspector Comments:

'Lovely setting. Real thought gone into the provision here'.

Outstanding Points from the Framework:

Children are highly motivated and are eager to join in. They share and cooperate well, demonstrating high levels of self-control and respect for others. Children consistently keep on trying hard, particularly if they encounter difficulties.

Personal Development

Inspector Comments:

'The school has a really strong offer with many outstanding aspects, and it's definitely not just the academic development that's strong here'.



Appleton Roebuck
Primary School
Where learning comes to life!

Outstanding Points from the Framework:

The school consistently promotes the extensive personal development of pupils. The school goes beyond the expected, so that pupils have access to a wide, rich set of experiences. Opportunities for pupils to develop their talents and interests are of exceptional quality.

There is strong take-up by pupils of the opportunities provided by the school. Disadvantaged pupils (including those with SEND), consistently benefit from this excellent work.

The school provides these rich experiences in a coherently planned way, in the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities, and they considerably strengthen the school's offer.

The way the school goes about developing pupils' character is exemplary and is worthy of being shared with others.

Leadership & Management

Inspector Comments:

'It's clear that leaders have acted swiftly, with excellent support from the Trust, to move this school forward to a very strong position'.

Safeguarding

Inspector Comments:

'It's a shame that Safeguarding isn't a graded area here. It would definitely be Outstanding'.

Behaviour & Attitudes

Inspector Comments:

'Culture and Values are a clear strength of Appleton. The school is very well-managed'.



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Outstanding Points from the Framework:

Pupils behave with consistently high levels of respect for others. They play a highly positive role in creating a school environment in which commonalities are identified and celebrated, difference is valued and nurtured, and bullying, harassment and violence are never tolerated.

Pupils behave consistently well, demonstrating high levels of self-control and consistently positive attitudes to their education. If pupils struggle with this, the school takes intelligent, fair and highly effective action to support them to succeed in their education.

Quality of Education

Inspector Comments:

'There is a clear pedagogy in place at Appleton'.

We have two 'Areas for Improvement'; both of which are already identified on our School Development Plan. The inspector would like us to:

- Continue to improve how we develop children's handwriting at an early state of learning.
- Further improve the planning for academic progress of pupils with additional needs. In contrast, our support for the pastoral (Social & Emotional Health) element of SEND was very strong.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts to the inspectors via the surveys, personal meetings or written correspondences. It really did help the inspection team understand the rapid journey we have been on and gave them confidence that Appleton Roebuck is as we thought; a really great school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Martyn Broom

Executive Headteacher, The STARMAT