

Inspection of a good school: Freshwater & Yarmouth Church of England Aided Primary School

79 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight PO40 9AX

Inspection date: 19 April 2023

Outcome

Freshwater & Yarmouth Church of England Aided Primary School continues to be a good school.

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils thrive at this welcoming school. Leaders have developed a 'conscious community' approach to encourage everyone to be the best that they can be. As a result, pupils learn to be respectful, develop resilience and build positive relationships. This helps them to create a secure foundation for their next stage in education and future life.

Leaders and staff share high ambitions for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils respond positively to these expectations and work hard. One pupil described how 'teachers inspire us!'. Consequently, pupils usually achieve well across the curriculum.

Pupils are polite and caring. Staff explicitly teach them how to behave, including by discussing different emotions. This enables pupils to make good choices independently. They appreciate how staff care for them, and this builds their confidence. Staff are quick to resolve worries that pupils may have. One pupil reflected, 'There is always a teacher who will listen.'

Pupils benefit from a broad range of leadership opportunities that help them to make a valuable contribution to the school. For example, as learning leaders, pupils meet with governors to suggest school improvements, and peer mentors support younger pupils if they have a concern.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Leaders' work to promote pupils' wider development is a strength of the school. They plan opportunities to build pupils' knowledge and experiences of the world beyond the island, especially for those who are disadvantaged. Pupils visit places in the local community, such as the library and the causeway, and benefit from routine trips to the mainland,

including to Winchester Science Museum. Pupils appreciate singing with the dementia choir as they recognise what a positive impact it has for everyone involved. Staff use different scenarios to promote pupils' moral development. Pupils are encouraged to discuss actions they might take in different situations and are guided to make sensible choices.

In Nursery, staff skilfully develop children's communication and language. Children are encouraged to broaden their vocabulary, and staff share rhymes and poems to improve children's speaking and listening skills. This helps to prepare children well for learning phonics in Reception. Throughout the school, staff read books aloud to foster a love of stories and to deepen pupils' knowledge of the topics they are studying, such as Earth and space.

Leaders prioritise pupils' learning to read, so that they can access the rest of the curriculum. From Reception onwards, staff follow the phonics scheme closely, which helps pupils to get off to a secure start in learning to read. Pupils read books that match the sounds they have learned. Weaker readers are given effective extra support to help them to keep up. Staff swiftly check new pupils' reading to work out what additional help they might need.

The curriculum in other subjects is usually well developed. Leaders have identified and sequenced the most important content they intend pupils to learn. This is typically well considered, but in a few subjects, some aspects need further refinement. For example, in mathematics, there is not yet sufficient emphasis on reasoning in all year groups.

Staff use secure subject knowledge and follow planning closely, which usually supports pupils to learn well. For example, pupils have an impressive knowledge of the work of different artists. There is some variation, but teachers typically design tasks that help pupils to learn the curriculum effectively and that capture their interest. Staff recap previous lessons before moving on and break learning down into small chunks, which supports pupils' understanding and confidence. Leaders have introduced careful checks to make sure that pupils learn the most important content, and staff use this information to adjust their teaching. Leaders are committed to swiftly identifying the needs of pupils with SEND. Staff carefully adapt their teaching so that they successfully provide bespoke provision to meet pupils' needs.

Leaders and staff have successfully merged two schools on one site into a positive and friendly community. However, some of the 2022 results were not as strong as they could have been. Leaders are focused on addressing this, but their identification of the most important tasks lacks precision to bring about the most important changes swiftly.

Staff overwhelmingly appreciate how leaders and governors consider their workload. They value how leaders listen and respond. Enthusiastic governors know the school very well. They provide robust challenge and support to leaders for the benefit of pupils. The collaborative approach between everyone involved means that governors, staff and pupils are proud of this school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders are diligent in their approach to safeguarding. They routinely provide high-quality training and thoroughly check that staff understand their responsibilities. Staff report concerns promptly, and leaders are tenacious in working with external agencies to get pupils the help that they need. Leaders maintain a strong oversight of comprehensive record-keeping.

Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe in the community. Leaders prioritise teaching pupils about beach and water safety because of the island location.

Governors take firm action to assure themselves that safeguarding is effective. They check records and talk with staff and pupils, acting quickly to address any issues.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Leaders have not prioritised the most important actions to improve the school further. This means that they have not been sufficiently focused on the key steps to address the variations in the quality of subject planning and implementation. Leaders and governors should ensure that they refine their thinking to prioritise the things that will make a difference to pupils' learning and closely check the impact of their actions.

Background

When we have judged a school to be good, we will then normally go into the school about once every four years to confirm that the school remains good. This is called an ungraded inspection, and it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. We do not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection. However, if we find evidence that a school would now receive a higher or lower grade, then the next inspection will be a graded inspection, which is carried out under section 5 of the Act. Usually this is within one to two years of the date of the ungraded inspection. If we have serious concerns about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, we will deem the ungraded inspection a graded inspection immediately.

This is the second ungraded inspection since we judged the school to be good in January 2013.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	118194
Local authority	Isle of Wight
Inspection number	10241863
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	168
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Carla Bradshaw
Headteacher	Elizabeth Grainger
Website	www.fosay.co.uk
Date of previous inspection	11 July 2017, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- Yarmouth Primary School was originally based in Yarmouth. Another school, called All Saints School, was based in Freshwater and it closed in July 2020. Most pupils from All Saints School joined the Yarmouth School roll in September 2020. A new school building was built at the All Saints site, which opened in December 2022. It was named Freshwater & Yarmouth Church of England Aided Primary School.
- The school is federated with Shalfleet Church of England Primary School.
- The deputy headteacher started in her role as deputy at Yarmouth School in September 2019 and became the deputy headteacher across the federation in September 2020.
- The school has a Nursery that includes provision for two-year-olds.
- This a Church of England school in the Diocese of Portsmouth. Its most recent section 48 inspection for schools of a religious character took place in November 2022, when it was judged to be good.
- The school does not currently use any alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- The inspectors met with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher and other school staff.
- The lead inspector also met with members of the governing body, including the chair. She also spoke to a representative of the local authority and a representative from the Diocese of Portsmouth and Diocese of Winchester.
- The inspectors carried out deep dives in early reading, mathematics, and art and design. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. Inspectors also scrutinised planning from other subjects.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, inspectors spoke with staff and pupils. The lead inspector met with the designated safeguarding lead to review their knowledge, records and actions. The inspectors also looked at safeguarding records and actions and reviewed information about the safer recruitment of staff.
- To make wider judgements, inspectors spoke to staff and groups of pupils from different year groups and observed behaviour in classrooms and at lunchtime.
- The views of staff and pupils, including responses to Ofsted's online staff survey, were considered.
- The responses of parents and carers to Ofsted Parent View, including written comments, were also taken into account.

Inspection team

Laurie Anderson, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

Joyce Lydford

Ofsted Inspector

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