



St Paul's Way

Aspiration • Integrity • Community

PART OF UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS TRUST

125 St Paul's Way
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7th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share the school's Ofsted Inspection Report with you following the recent inspection that took place on the 29th and 30th of September 2022. This is the first Inspection of St Paul's Way as an 'Academy converter school' (the school became an Academy in 2016) and as a 'Through School' due to the opening of our Primary School. This means inspectors reviewed provision right the way through from Nursery to the Sixth Form.

I am delighted that, despite the well documented challenges of the new and unforgiving Ofsted framework, the inspection team recognised our strength in depth across the nursery, primary and secondary/sixth form phases. In total, 4 of the 6 individual inspection sub-areas were graded as 'outstanding' and the remaining 2 areas were judged as 'good'. The full inspection report is attached for you to read at your leisure, but I would like to highlight just some of the many possible quotes which capture the essence of the positive feedback.

"Pupils at this school are kind, caring and respectful towards one another. They are happy, enjoy coming to school each day and want to make the most of their studies."

"Leaders have an ambitious vision of what they want pupils to know from the early years through to the sixth form."

"Teaching pupils to read is a high priority. In Reception, the teaching of phonics starts quickly in September. Leaders assess what pupils know and ensure that phonics teaching builds well on prior learning. Pupils who fall behind in the phonics programme are identified promptly."

"Leaders have high expectations for all pupils. Across the school, the broad curriculum is well designed and ambitious. The focus on ensuring that pupils are well prepared for their next steps in learning is clear. This work is particularly strong in the early years. No time is wasted in teaching children essential knowledge..."

"A rigorous and ambitious sixth form curriculum means that students are well placed to choose from a wide variety of aspirational destinations when they leave the school."

"From Year 7 onwards, pupils receive high quality careers information delivered through a carefully planned programme. Strong links with renowned universities and industry form part of this work with pupils able to take part in leadership coaching opportunities."

The school received only 1 area for development from the entire Ofsted framework. The point relates to ensuring formative assessment checks are consistently carried out in all classes. Inspectors felt this practice was consistently observed in early years and sixth form lessons but less consistent in other phases based on the sample of lessons they observed over the two-day visit.





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The same teaching principles are applied across all parts of our school and so teachers and leaders will work together to ensure best practice is shared and utilised in the few areas where this was less consistent.

Governors and Trustees are delighted that, despite our huge growth over the last 10 years (doubling in pupil numbers and opening a primary school), St Paul's Way continues to deliver such strong educational provision, at scale, for the children and young people we serve.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

With best wishes,

Phil Akerman
Executive Headteacher

