

Inspection of a good school: Morton Trentside Primary School

Crooked Billet Street, Morton, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 3AH

Inspection dates:

21 and 22 March 2023

Outcome

Morton Trentside Primary School continues to be a good school.

What is it like to attend this school?

Staff and pupils live out the school's values of 'care, inspire, thrive and achieve'. They do so in a happy, safe and caring school. They are rightly proud of their school.

Pupils are welcoming, polite and respectful. Staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour. Pupils consistently meet these high expectations. Rarely is behaviour unacceptable. Occasionally, there is some unkindness. Pupils value that staff listen and help sort disagreements if they happen.

Pupils appreciate the range of opportunities that enrich their time at school. They take their leadership responsibilities seriously. For example, the sports crew, mini police, and various ambassador roles have a positive impact. Pupils like having Barney, the school dog, around.

Pupils are inspired by trips and visitors. They warmly recall learning about Hinduism and Indian culture. Children in the early years eagerly awaited chicks to hatch from eggs. Pupils expressively sing while at the same time using sign language. They enthusiastically perform with rhythm as part of the Samba percussion ensemble.

Parents and carers are mostly very positive about the school. A parent typically commented, 'The staff are amazing. My child has thrived from the minute he attended this school. All of the staff genuinely care about the well-being of every child.'

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

Leaders have developed a broad and ambitious curriculum. They make sure that most subject curriculums are developed to build pupils' learning across each year, and from the early years to Year 6. Leaders have identified the key learning that pupils need to gain and when in most subject curriculums. For example, in mathematics and science, leaders ensure that pupils revisit, consolidate and build learning. In most subjects, leaders regularly review and develop the curriculum. They make sure that what pupils learn is

suitably challenging. However, leaders have not ensured that the subject curriculums are as demanding as they could be in some subjects. They have not fully identified the key knowledge that they want pupils to learn in some parts of these subjects. Leaders have recognised this priority through their review process.

Teachers expect pupils to work hard. Pupils apply themselves well. They are attentive and are diligent in lessons. They have very positive attitudes to their learning. Teachers use questions well to check pupils' learning and to prompt pupils' deeper understanding. Teachers have strong subject knowledge. They use resources well to support pupils' learning. Pupils take pride in their work and successes. Children in early years follow well established routes. They get off to a positive start.

Leaders ensure that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive appropriate support. Leaders work well with specialist professionals to help meet the needs of these pupils when required. Staff know the needs of pupils with SEND well. These pupils access the same curriculum as their peers. Staff adapt their teaching and activities to enable these pupils to learn well. Many parents value the positive provision for pupils with SEND. However, a minority of parents do not recognise this.

Leaders have prioritised reading. They have created a strong culture that fosters pupils' love of reading and literature. Staff teach phonics effectively and consistently. They have high expectations of pupils. Children learn to read from when they start in Reception. Pupils learn their phonics knowledge well. Those who need additional support are helped to keep up. Younger pupils become confident and fluent readers. This is reflected in the high proportion of pupils who meet the expected standard in the Year 1 phonics screening check. Pupils learn to understand different texts and stories. Teachers bring stories to life.

Leaders provide a wide range of positive opportunities for pupils' personal development. They have developed a well-thought-out personal, social, health and economic education curriculum. Pupils learn the importance of diversity, equality and inclusion. They learn about different faiths and the importance of respect. Staff provide pupils with meaningful opportunities to learn about physical, mental and emotional health. Pupils receive age-appropriate relationships and sex education. Pupils are supported in their moral development. They learn the importance of personal beliefs and values. They are actively involved in the local community. Pupils are nurtured to be appropriately confident, resilient and thoughtful individuals.

Governors carefully support and suitably challenge leaders. Governors know the school's strength. They regularly review the school's development priorities. They are mindful of staff well-being. They actively support staff in managing workload.

Staff are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They feel valued and appreciated. They are proud to be part of the school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders have developed a strong culture of safeguarding. Staff know pupils very well. Staff receive regular training and updates. They understand their responsibilities well. They are vigilant and respond appropriately if they have concerns about pupils' welfare. Leaders work well with external agencies. They make sure pupils receive additional help when needed.

Pupils have opportunities to learn about potential risks. They learn how to be safe in different situations. For example, leaders ensure that pupils are informed of the risks associated with the inappropriate use of social media. Governors understand and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities well.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Parts of some subject curriculums are not as ambitious as they could be. Leaders have not identified all of the key learning that they want pupils to learn and when in these subjects. Consequently, pupils are not consistently challenged in all aspects of these subjects and do not develop their understanding as fully as they could. Leaders must ensure that all aspects of all subject curriculums are appropriately demanding, thus enabling pupils to know more and remember more in all subjects.

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 April 2012.

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	120464
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	10227876
Type of school	Primary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	210
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Stacey Round
Headteacher	Beverley Riddle
Website	www.mortontrentside.lincs.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	28 March 2017, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- There have been some changes in the senior leadership team and staffing since the previous inspection.
- The school does not use the services of any alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and has taken that into account in his evaluation.
- The inspector met with the headteacher and senior leaders. He met with the mental health and well-being leader, and the special educational needs and disabilities coordinator.
- The inspector met with three governors, including the chair and vice-chair. He spoke with a local authority officer on the telephone.
- The inspector carried out deep dives in these subjects: reading, mathematics and religious education. For each deep dive, the inspector met with subject leaders, looked

at curriculum plans, visited lessons, spoke with pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. He listened to some pupils read.

- In addition, the inspector considered other subjects, including science, music and art. He sampled pupils' work, reviewed curriculum planning and visited lessons.
- The inspector met with safeguarding leaders. He reviewed the single central record, safeguarding records and the safeguarding policy.
- The inspector met with staff and pupils to discuss different aspects of school life. He observed pupils during breaktimes. He spoke with pupils informally.
- The inspector visited the school's singing assembly.
- The inspector reviewed information published on the school's website. He scrutinised a range of documents, these included behaviour records and various policies.
- The inspector considered the views of parents who completed the Ofsted survey, Parent View, including free-text responses. He reviewed responses to Ofsted's surveys for pupils and for school staff.

Inspection team

Chris Davies, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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