

22nd May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Section 109 (Education) Ofsted Inspection of Cambian Potterspurty Lodge School
28th and 30th March Final Report**

I am writing to share with you our final school report which was conducted between the 28th and 30th March 2023, when we were visited by Mr Peter Stonier (His Majesty's Inspector) our Lead Inspector, and Mr Simon Hollingsworth, also an HMI.

It is with much pride that I inform you that we have again been judged to be a **"Good"** School having secured a **"Good"** rating in each of the four categories that we were scrutinised on. As a reminder schools are graded as Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, or Inadequate. This means that since the Inspection of March 2018 where the school was rated as Inadequate, the school moved to **"Good"** in all areas in 2020, and has again been judged to be **"Good"** in all areas, with Mr Stonier confirming in his feedback that we are **"Securely Good"**. This highlights the continued high standards and progress achieved in the school against the challenges of navigating a global pandemic and socio-economic matters.

I am delighted that the report reflects the hard work of our students, staff and the Governing Body. The report also highlights the important impact of the support provided by you as Parents/Carers, without which we would not be where we are, it is therefore extremely important that I acknowledge and thank you for your continued support, sentiments, and feedback.

I am pleased that Inspectors acknowledged that students **"thrive"** at the school and are **"happy and feel safe"** in a **"calm atmosphere"** where **"relationships are warm and positive"** and **"Staff know and care for the pupils very well"**. At the heart of our school are the students, hence **"(leaders) decisions have a clear rationale and are made with the best interests of the pupils at heart"** was highly pleasing to hear from Inspectors as it demonstrated that they understood our culture, vision, and values.

On teaching and learning, Inspectors commented that **"teachers have good subject knowledge"** and are **"quick to help if they (pupils) need extra support or resources"**. Mr Stonier also noted that **"teachers regularly check how well pupils are progressing through their current curriculum"** and **"through this careful checking, the appropriate curriculum and effective teaching, pupils achieve well"**.

Reading as you are aware alongside literacy is a national focus hence it was pleasing that our literacy and reading programme was acknowledged **"Leaders are developing pupil's love of reading and books through updating the school library"** and **"they (pupils) can all read effectively. This enables them to access the full curriculum"**.

Regarding Behaviour and Attitudes, Inspectors highlighted **"pupils' behaviour and attendance improve considerably when compared to their experience in their previous school or setting"** and **"Leaders ensure that detailed work is undertaken to determine pupil's specific learning and behaviour needs"**.

Our work on Personal Development was a real strength of the inspection; **"the related curriculum is strong"...."pupils learn how to contribute to the local community"** and **...."have an age appropriate understanding of healthy relationships"...."this work is preparing them well for life in modern Britain"**. On the feedback Inspectors indicated that we were close to securing an Outstanding judgement for Personal Development; having more individual extracurricular options would have supported a "Grade 1", or Outstanding judgement.

Safeguarding is a key component of our culture, hence it was pleasing to learn that ***“the arrangements for safeguarding are effective”*** and ***“staff have received effective safeguarding training”***. Students also ***“are taught to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations”***.

Part of an inspection is that the process acts as a self-evaluation and school improvement quality assurance, hence it is important to take onboard what has been highlighted as needing to improve.

We have noted the sequencing directive to ensure that the key stage two curriculum links with that of the key stage three and four curriculums, and work is already underway to address this point. For context, our primary students were only split into two classes in January and the curriculum written in record time to facilitate a sound pathway for our two year groups to support two new students who joined us. Inspectors acknowledged this and while complimentary, challenged us to devise and implement the curriculum between the key stages which we have noted and actioned already.

To achieve an outstanding judgement in personal development Inspectors noted that we need to implement a greater variety of individual opportunities based around student’s interests and passions. They took into account our location, transport and travel arrangements in this judgement and fed back to leaders some of their sentiments of how to improve this. Leaders have started work in addressing this matter for September 2023, re our curriculum offer.

On the matter of the inspection being carried out earlier than planned, for clarity, Inspectors consider historic wider issues as standard practice when approaching an inspection. Both HMIs undertook their usual safeguarding inspection activities and found no concerns related to student’s welfare. Safeguarding was judged to be effective.

I hope that you find the inspection report informative and as pleasing as we do. However, if you do have any questions please don’t hesitate to make contact with myself.

In conclusion, all that remains to say is that I am immensely proud of the inspection outcome and the efforts of students, staff, you as parents/carers, and stakeholders who contribute on a daily basis to our school. I am particularly thrilled that the Inspectors saw in their short time with us what we see every day; a school that is focussed on preparing our young people for adulthood with the outcomes to match, and a staff body that are resolute about placing our students at the core of everything we do.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Nimmo".

Jenny Nimmo
Principal