



Pierrepont Gamston Primary School
Coledale
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 6TH

Telephone (0115) 981 9292
e-mail office@pierrepont-gamston.notts.sch.uk

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection and what it means for our school moving forward. We are immensely proud of the work that takes place every day in our school and of the positive feedback received about our pupils, staff and wider community.

As you may know, Ofsted now reports separately on different aspects of a school's work rather than providing a single overall judgement. Under the new inspection framework, expectations for all schools have been raised significantly. This means that outcomes cannot be directly compared with previous Ofsted grades such as *Outstanding*, *Good* or *Requires Improvement*. The new descriptors — *Expected Standard*, *Strong Standard*, and *Needs Attention* — each have a specific meaning within this updated system.

- **Expected Standard** means that the school is meeting the rigorous national expectations and providing effective, high-quality education and care.
- **Strong Standard** indicates practice that exceeds the expected level in particular areas and represents sector-leading work.
- **Needs Attention** signals an area that does not yet meet the standard expected nationally and where development work is already under way.

Under the previous framework, inspectors often made "best fit" judgements, identifying which grade most closely reflected a school's overall picture. The new framework now requires a "secure fit", meaning each area must fully and consistently meet the criteria before the standard is awarded. This shift makes the process more exacting and the outcomes more robust.

It's important to understand that a judgement of *Expected Standard* reflects success within a more demanding framework, it does not equate to a lower standard than in the past but recognises that the bar has been raised for all schools nationally. We are proud that our school continues to offer a rich, well-rounded education where children are safe, happy and thriving. We remain committed to continuous improvement and to achieving the very best outcomes for every pupil.

There is much to celebrate. Inspectors described our pupils as "happy and feel safe" and recognised the caring culture that exists throughout the school. They noted that pupils behave very well, enjoy representing the school and demonstrate our value of "radiating love" through their kindness and consideration for others. Older pupils were recognised as positive role models who contribute actively to school life. Inspectors also recognised pupils' pride in their achievements and their enthusiasm for learning and the focus for celebrating success at the heart of our school community.

We are very pleased that inspectors found that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education and achieve highly in national tests, with outcomes above national averages. Across the most recent three-year average, 86% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined, compared with 61% nationally. In reading the figure was 88%, in writing 92% and in mathematics 95% – all significantly above national averages. Inspectors also recognised the positive impact of our recent work to develop the teaching of reading, grammar and vocabulary.

Our Achievement, Curriculum and Teaching, Attendance and Behaviour, Leadership and Governance, and Personal development and Wellbeing were all judged to meet the Expected Standard. Inspectors recognised our broad and balanced curriculum, teachers' secure subject knowledge, the careful sequencing of learning, and the enrichment opportunities we provide. They also described an "open and reflective leadership culture" and acknowledged the positive relationships that exist between pupils, staff and families. We are pleased that inspectors recognised the breadth of experiences and

opportunities we offer our children to enhance their personal development and wellbeing and that they acknowledged that our pupils develop a strong sense of moral responsibility as this is an area, we take great pride in.

The report also identifies areas where we need to improve. These centre around:

- Ensuring classroom practice more consistently challenges the needs of pupils in mixed-age classes, particularly within foundation subjects.
- Further strengthening spelling, handwriting and transcription skills across the curriculum.
- Enhancing opportunities for children in Early Years to deepen their learning through continuous provision, including outdoor learning.
- Improving the consistency and evaluation of some aspects of our inclusive practice, particularly for vulnerable pupils and those who access some learning outside the classroom.
- Strengthening oversight and support for the small minority of pupils whose attendance is not as strong as it should be.

While the judgements for Early Years and Inclusion were Needs Attention, the report also recognises many strengths in these areas. In Early Years, inspectors highlighted the supportive relationships between staff and children, well-established routines that promote independence, strong partnerships with parents and carers, effective identification of gaps in learning and targeted support that helps children make progress. They also recognised improvements in the teaching of writing, the effective teaching of phonics and the positive development of children's communication skills.

In Inclusion, inspectors described Pierrepont Gamston as a welcoming school with coherent systems for identifying needs and adapting provision. They recognised the strong support provided for pupils with English as an additional language, the effective use of additional funding for disadvantaged pupils, and the caring relationships experienced by pupils with SEND. Inspectors also acknowledged our commitment to inclusive practice and the work undertaken to ensure that pupils can access both the curriculum and the wide range of enrichment opportunities available across the school.

We want to reassure you that the attendance point raised relates to a very small number of pupils, fewer than 1% of our school and is not a wider pattern. The vast majority of our children attend brilliantly, and our overall attendance remains well above the national average. Where individual families need extra support, we work closely with them to help their child get back on track.

We have already begun addressing the areas identified. These priorities are embedded within our School Development Plan for this year and are supported by clear actions, monitoring and evaluation. For example, we are focusing on ensuring that all children including SEND children access their learning within the classroom wherever possible, and that any additional support is carefully matched to need, purposeful and effective. We will continue to work closely with governors, staff, pupils and families, and we are committed to keeping parents and carers informed as this work progresses. Together, we will ensure that these improvements have a meaningful and lasting impact on pupils' experiences and outcomes.

Successful schools are never finished. We are proud of the many strengths recognised by inspectors, particularly the achievements of our pupils, the caring culture of our school, and the significant progress Pierrepont Gamston has made in recent years. Inspectors recognised how our values are embedded across the school and reflected in the positive learning behaviours seen every day, giving us a strong foundation for the future. We are especially proud that, despite the challenges of a heatwave and ongoing building disruption, our children and staff continued to demonstrate resilience, positivity and care for one another, truly reflecting the spirit of our school. While we remain committed to learning from the findings and continuing to improve, we do so with confidence that every child at Pierrepont Gamston is loved, challenged, supported and given the opportunity to flourish.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Claire Bills
Headteacher

Mrs Claire Meese
Chair of Governors