



NEWBOTTLE & CHARLTON CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Every person matters, every moment counts "I can do all this through him who gives me strength"

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Headteacher: Mr Peter Smith

Chair Of Governors: Lady Hayter

Wednesday 17th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attached you will find the Ofsted report for Newbottle and Charlton CEVA Primary school which was conducted on 18th and 19th April 2023. The Ofsted judgement is 'Requires Improvement' overall. As you can imagine, as a staff and governors, we are very disappointed in this grading. It seemed so unfair to sum up all the hard work of everyone and all the good things, all the efforts of your lovely children, in the two words 'Requires Improvement'. However we are pleased with lots of the content of the report. It reflects our ethos and the continued effort everyone has made to be there for all our school community on a daily basis, especially since Covid-19, to help children achieve their best. It was a fair and rigorous process but these two words don't define us and we hope you can see from reading the full report all the positives that we have worked hard to achieve.

We would first like to thank you all – parents, carers, pupils, governors and staff- who spoke to the inspectors for the positive views you gave them of the school which was reflected in the report. So many of you wrote lovely things including ***'The school is a family where children are nurtured and developed by wonderful staff'***. They recognised that we are warm and welcoming and that pupils are happy and feel safe which means so much to us. Ofsted graded us with ***'Good'*** for Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development with pupils commenting that ***'...the school is special because everyone is kind'***. Pupils' personal development has been a priority since the pandemic and we are pleased they recognised the work that has been done to support children and that they have access to a wider range of support when needed.

We are pleased they recognised that pupils see everyone as individuals and that they respect each other's differences which is so important when developing them to be caring and responsible citizens in our diverse society. Ofsted also commented that ***'Leaders have established strong relationships with staff, governors and parents. All stakeholders unite in their ambition for all pupils to achieve their best. This includes pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils.'*** We are a school family and are working together to help children to achieve in all areas as well-rounded children when they leave our school.

Other areas we would like to point out that are positive include:

- Our environment is calm and well ordered.
- Early Reading is taught well.
- Teachers check what pupils know in Mathematics and English and use this information to plan pupils' next steps.
- Older children understand the importance of working hard to help them to achieve their best.
- Children in the Early Years are confident and enjoy school.
- Pupils with SEND get the right support to help them learn.
- Children feel included in school and know the importance of respectful relationships.
- Extra-curricular clubs enable pupils to nurture their interests and talents.
- Safeguarding is effective and leaders act quickly to help pupils and families.
- Pupils know that adults in school will help them if they have any worries and they have access to a wider range of support, including pastoral support and counselling.



Since the school was last inspected, there have been a number of factors that have had an impact on the school’s progress such as the Covid pandemic. This alongside a change in the inspection framework and increased curriculum demands means that it has not been a straightforward journey. There has been a shift to focussing on foundation subjects (including history, art, music etc). We have worked to develop these; sequencing key knowledge and understanding and the inspectors commented to us that the intent of the curriculum was ambitious. As a small school it has been a challenge to focus on developing all areas of the curriculum with our small staff. We know that children enjoy these lessons and are knowing more and remembering more, however we just need to organise assessments to ensure that knowledge sticks in their long-term memory and that all children can articulate their knowledge consistently whenever people ask.

There are always things that a school can improve upon and the inspection report highlights a number of areas which had already been identified in the school development plan, discussed with governors. and are nearly at completion. Unfortunately, even though our Maths and English were seen as a strength, this meant that the quality of education couldn’t be graded as ‘Good’. Because of this it also meant that the school couldn’t achieve ‘Good’ in Leadership and Management.

What we need to do now:

- Continue to focus on our implementation of the curriculum, developing our assessment framework for the foundation subjects; ensuring teachers know precisely where children are with their knowledge in all areas of the curriculum.
- Support all teachers in refining their teaching in lessons to help children to build on their knowledge over time addressing misconceptions immediately.
- Develop the EYFS curriculum to ensure that leaders set out what knowledge all children should know and by when.

Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing some plans for September including some changes we will be making to continue on the next part of our school journey; we are really excited about this and feel it will be a real positive for the future.

The governors have every confidence that staff can continue to move the school forward and make those developments and improvements that Ofsted requires. We know we are a school that provides a safe, happy and caring environment where good learning goes on – as your supporting letters to the inspectors showed. An Ofsted grading should not affect anyone’s perception of the school and it is only one measure of success and our true measure is our pupils, who are a credit to you all.

Please take some time to read the attached report and should you have any questions feel free to email, call or speak to us and we would be more than happy to discuss it.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Smith
Head Teacher

Lady Hayter
Chair of Governors
(On behalf of the Governing Body)