

ASHFIELD SCHOOL

A DfE ACADEMY SPECIALISING IN TECHNOLOGY, LANGUAGES & APPLIED LEARNING

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HEADTEACHER Mr J Maher

Dear Parents/Carers,

On May 1st 2019 we received a visit by an Ofsted Inspection Team to check the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements at Ashfield School.

The team of four inspectors observed pupil behaviour before school, at tutor time, in assembly, at break time, between lessons, at lunch time and observed 43 lessons across every area of the school. In effect they saw a typical day at Ashfield School.

They interviewed students from every year group, teachers, support staff, the Leadership Team, Governors and Trustees about the school and its safeguarding culture and inspected safeguarding documentation and policies.

It is fair to say they inspected us thoroughly and left no stone unturned in gathering evidence.

I am pleased to say that they concluded that there is 'a strong and effective safeguarding culture' at the school. In fact, they could only praise the school for the behaviour of the students, their attitude to learning and the vigilance taken by staff to keep students safe.

I will now share the main conclusions of the report which is available now on the Ashfield School website and will appear on the Ofsted website on the 3rd June.

Safeguarding at Ashfield School:

- ✓ There is a strong and effective culture of safeguarding at the school.
- ✓ Overwhelmingly, parents say their children are safe and happy at the school
- ✓ Pupils feel cared for and safe. They say that they are listened to when they have worries and concerns. They are confident that adults will deal with concerns appropriately.
- ✓ Very effective systems are in place to support vulnerable pupils.
- ✓ The school's curriculum helps pupils to understand how to deal with risks and how to keep themselves safe in different situations.
- ✓ Safeguarding leaders are meticulous in maintaining safeguarding records which are detailed, accurate and regularly reviewed.
- ✓ Leaders tenaciously follow up referrals to external agencies in a timely manner.
- ✓ Leaders receive regular training and have high expectations of all staff.
- ✓ Staff receive regular training, they know their responsibilities and understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- ✓ Staff are vigilant in ensuring that all pupils are safe.

Behaviour at Ashfield School:

- ✓ The staff know pupils and their families very well, and this is a strength of the school.
- ✓ Staff keep pupils safe through the implementation of a very effective behaviour policy.
- ✓ Pupils feel safe at school and said that bullying is rare.
- ✓ Incidents of prejudicial and discriminatory language are rare and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- ✓ Inspectors witnessed consistently positive behaviour in lessons and during social times.
- ✓ Pupils' attitude to learning in lessons was positive.
- ✓ Pupils' behaviour was seen to be polite and friendly.
- ✓ Pupils' overall attendance is positive with absence below national average.
- ✓ Pupils are very proud of their school

We have already addressed the one area for improvement that came out of the inspection relating to further developing our excellent Post 16 PSHE provision to include wider risks.

Of course, we are not perfect and we are not complacent. However, we are all pleased with the Ofsted conclusions and feel that they fairly reflect day to day life at our school.

I think it is fair to say that the inspection team were impressed.

Thanks, for your continued support.

Yours



Mr Maher

LEARNING TO ACHIEVE

