



West Wimbledon Primary School Post Ofsted Inspection FAQs

1. What is an Ofsted Inspection and is it important?

An Ofsted inspection is an independent assessment required by law of the quality and standard of education in schools.

Inspections are important as they promote improvement as well as hold schools to account for the public money they receive for the school. They also provide parents with information and are a check on whether pupils are achieving to their maximum potential.

2. What does 'requires improvement' mean?

Ofsted Inspectors make their assessments against the following areas:

- Effectiveness of leadership and management
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare
- Outcomes for pupils.
- Early years provision

The four grades Ofsted use are: Grade 1 = Outstanding, Grade 2 = Good, Grade 3 = Requires improvement, Grade 4 = Inadequate.

A 'requires improvement' grade means that there are certain aspects of the above criteria that the inspectors assessed on the day of the inspection as requiring improvement.

The Ofsted report gives the details of the specific areas which the school needs to focus on improving as well as the areas assessed as good. Areas that are 'good' should be developed so that they can be assessed as 'outstanding' at the next inspection.

In 2012, Ofsted reviewed their grades and decided to rename grade three in an attempt to tackle schools that were coasting. 'Satisfactory' became 'requires improvement' as the DoE focused on trying to improve the fortunes of schools who were persistently gaining a 'satisfactory' grade.

3. What do Ofsted say needs to be improved?

The inspection assessed 4 areas as requiring improvement; the effectiveness of leadership & management, quality of teaching, learning & assessment, outcomes for pupils and early-years provision.

The basis of this assessment rested on three elements: First, that the capacity for leadership within the senior leadership team of WWPS was limited; second, that the standards of teaching and learning in WWPS were inconsistent, between teachers, classes and year-levels; and that the early-years provision was not ensuring strong enough pupil progress into KS1

This does not mean these areas are inadequate but that some work is required to bring up their standards. The work has already begun with governors putting in place improvement plans including the recruitment of an Executive Head in Mr Lufkin and a partnership with Wimbledon Park Primary School.

4. What do Ofsted say the school is doing well?

WWPS has achieved good results in the 2018 SATS exams. Assessment at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 showed a significant improvement from 2017. There is evidence of effective teaching and learning and good work by the teachers and pupils. The school is committed to ensuring the children continue to excel academically year on year.

The school promotes the children's personal development, behaviour and welfare. In the report, Ofsted said, *"pupils are friendly, respectful and well behaved. They told inspectors that they feel safe at school. Pupils' behaviour is good."*

The school leadership team has created an environment that is caring and inclusive, valuing and respecting the pupils. This combined with effective promotion and encouragement of the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development makes West Wimbledon Primary School an exciting place for the children to learn and develop.

5. What does the school plan to do to drive the school forward?

The Governors had already identified the improvement areas identified by Ofsted and have been taking decisive steps to address them. Our partnership with Mr Lufkin and WPPS is the result of governors' commitment to improvement which pre-dates Ofsted's visit.

The Governors have also agreed with Wimbledon Park to extend and deepen our partnership so that Mr Lufkin can support West Wimbledon more thoroughly in the coming months. His time will be spent developing the provision of



consistent, high quality teaching whilst also strengthening the leadership capacity of the school.

The school leadership team will be implementing proven curricula and teaching and assessment approaches, used at WPPS, into West Wimbledon Primary School. These approaches were crucial to the successful attainment of an 'outstanding' grade at Wimbledon Park Primary School and we hope they will benefit West Wimbledon Primary School in a similar way.

6. What help will the school receive from outside agencies?

Ofsted's assessment has opened up new pools of resource to us – both financial and strategic – to enhance and drive our school improvement plan. For example, to support this Merton council has awarded WWPS an additional small amount of one-time funding, which will be used to underwrite the leadership capacity and teaching and learning improvements described above.

7. What differences will my child notice?

- Our children will continue to remain safe, valued and respected whilst the school implements the necessary changes.
- There may be a rotation of staff to bring in a mentoring ethos which will serve to harmonise high standards of teaching across the school.
- There will be a review of the curriculum to ensure consistency in learning and achievement.
- Children will receive more feedback on achievements and will be encouraged to exceed expectations.

8. What differences will parents and carers notice?

- There will be even more emphasis on teaching and learning, to make sure our children are achieving and exceeding expectations.
- There will be more communication from the school and governors regarding the school improvement plan and our partnership with WPPS.
- Parents and carers might notice the governors being more visible during school hours.

9. Will this report affect my child's secondary school place?

It is important to remember that the school achieved improved results in this year's Key Stage 1 and 2 SATS. Our children are still achieving good results which will stand them in good stead for secondary school. Their school place is



not affected by their primary school's rating and the school is committed to ensuring that all children achieve high levels of progress and attainment.

10. How can you reassure parents that West Wimbledon Primary School is the best school for their children?

This is an exciting time for West Wimbledon Primary School. The Ofsted report has given governors and the refreshed school leadership team a mandate for improvement as it refocuses the entire school community on our rapid route back to outstanding.

We know that children are safe at our school and, above all, we know that they are happy. These are very important factors in a child's overall school experience. Through our partnership with WPPS, we intend to ensure that each child in every class experiences only the very highest standard of teaching.

11. What can parents do to help?

- Continue to be involved and care about the school.
- Offer your skills to the governing body and put your name down to be a governor in the next parent election.
- If you can spare some time, get involved with FOWW. The work that parent volunteers do to raise money has had a huge impact and children benefit hugely from the extra resources that FOWW are able to provide.
- Speak to the school leadership team and governors about any concerns you may have.

12. How can we benchmark our children current progress, bearing in mind that there could potentially have been a period of inconsistent teaching?

- The school has been working to improve standards of teaching and learning over the past year, evidence of which is in the improved 2018 SATs results.
- The implementation of the new curriculum from WPPS will bring forward the plans for addressing consistent teaching and learning practice across the school.

13. Are you still going to be recruiting for a new head?

- Governors believe strongly that Mr Lufkin is the right person to lead the school at this time.

- Governors feel that Mr Lufkin's expertise is considerable, as he has worked over the last 8 years to take WPPS from 'requires improvement' back to 'outstanding'.
- We have a proven plan in place with a great partnership with WPPS so any changes we make in the middle of this process have to be well thought out to ensure they will benefit the school.
- Mr Lufkin will be dedicating his attention to WWPS full time for the immediate future so that the improvement of the school's teaching standards and curriculum can be managed effectively.
- Governors and Mr Lufkin acknowledge that the school's leadership capacity needs to be bolstered and strengthened.
- The Governors will continue to monitor the situation but are committed to returning the school back to an 'outstanding' grade by deepening and extending our partnership with WPPS under the executive headship of Mr Lufkin.

14. How can governors ensure that they are seeking insight and information from the right sources, given that the guidance and support they've been offered in the past have not always been right?

- Governors have committed to improving their levels of training and oversight, especially across areas of challenge, data and school improvement.
- Governors are challenging the school leadership team more and are not relying on Merton Borough or school leaders to tell them what they need to know. Going forward, the governing body have recruited three new members who will be officially joining the board at our next full governing body meeting and they bring with them some very specific skills and abilities.

15. How visible will the action plan be to everyone and what is the success criteria?

- This will be part of the school development plan and will be shared with parents.
- Ultimately, the success of WWPS can be measured in academic performance and Ofsted ratings, but we also feel that continuing to monitor pupil happiness and welfare are of equal importance.

16. There hasn't been much evidence seen so far to push the more gifted children, what is the plan for getting this in place going forward?

- The high performing curriculum we are putting in place - rich in information and stimulation - will ensure that higher attaining children are stretched.
- The plan is to focus on resolving the core issue by providing excellent teaching for all children. Focusing on the extremes of pupil attainment does not actually benefit the children at either end of the ability spectrum and it undermines excellent standards of teaching for all.

17. It has been mentioned that additional funding is being made available. What will that be used for? Can some of the plans be fast tracked with the funding? Will an update soon be given soon?

- The process of determining the additional amount the school will receive is being negotiated with Merton - we will communicate what that is / means in relation to the School development and improvement plan.
- There are some commitments on the additional funding already but the governors will continue to review what the urgent needs are.
- We will also communicate more about the overall school finances.

18. A new curriculum has been mentioned - are we going to train the staff? How are we going to get the skills required to be able to teach the new curriculum?

- There are already skilled teachers in the school, who will be able to learn the new curriculum quickly and teach it effectively.
- Training days have been organised to get the teachers familiar with the new curriculum and improved teaching and learning standards. This includes joint training days with WPPS.
- The school will also look to recruit for new teachers as required.

19. Can you give an example of what resources from WPPS can support the school, and what will it look like across science and maths for example?

- A skilled maths teacher who already works across schools in the Borough and internationally will assist in the improvement of the maths teaching and learning.
- WWPS teachers are being trained at WPPS on 18th October (on curriculum and assessment) and 9th November (on consistency in teaching and learning approaches), including resource sharing
- The links made on these training days will establish communication channels for ongoing advice about implementation

- Mr Lufkin has a strong maths and science background and will be leading the improvement plan.
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20. Ofsted mentioned inconsistency in the teaching and learning, what checks and balances will be put into place?

- Checking, reviewing and monitoring processes are being developed. This includes teachers across both schools reviewing and learning from each other and the school leadership team checking and monitoring on a regular basis.

21. When will the next update meeting be?

- Governors want to keep you informed and updated and will do so regularly.
- Once the plan is underway and the joint governing body steering committee has met to discuss progress, we'll be able to update you.
- It is difficult to say exactly when there will be matters to update you on as the plan is still being developed. However, governors will aim to update all parents via Parentmail in November.

22. School is very diverse, will the Ofsted rating affect that?

- WWPS is a school community for every local child and it is proud of its multi-cultural heritage.
- WWPS is still offering children a good education and this will improve greatly over the coming terms.
- Governors and school leaders do not expect the Ofsted report to have a huge impact on the diversity of our school's population.
- Our plans for school improvement are likely to attract the attention of parents who want their children to benefit from the raising of standards.

23. Our foreign languages provision has not been consistent. Is that something that can be brought in from WPPS?

- Whilst we recognise the importance of foreign language teaching, the focus of the plan is on the integration of a new curriculum and improving

standards of teaching and learning more broadly. Dedicated second language teaching is not in the short-term plan at the moment.

- Mr Lufkin is a fluent French speaker and will undertake French training for teachers and over time we will look at the opportunity to recruit a dedicated language teacher.
- The appointment of a full-time language teacher is a budget consideration which must be managed within the school's budget cycle.

24. What are the 3 core challenges that the Governors face and School leadership face and how are these being addressed?

- School leadership capability and how that is going to be increased.
 - i. The plan for this is to be decided as we look at the long-term relationship with WPPS.
- Consistency of teaching and learning - writing and science especially.
 - ii. The introduction of a new curriculum and proven teaching and assessment approaches is a start and further plans will be part of the school development plan.
- The long term strategic future of the school.
 - iii. The governing bodies at both schools are planning a permanent future for both schools together with a single long-term vision under Mr Lufkin's leadership

25. What changes are going to be made to the Governing Body in light of the Ofsted report?

- The governing body has been changing and reforming since Easter this year, with nearly 50% of our members being new to the board or new to their post.
- The chair of governors has spent the summer looking at our capabilities and has recruited three new community governors who meet specific strategic needs.
- The Governing body have already had our annual strategic planning meeting (pre-Ofsted) and we will be revising part of that plan in light of the Ofsted report.
- Governors will continue to undertake training to improve their knowledge and skills.
- There will be a more regular review of governance to ensure effectiveness.

26. What is the planned pace of improvement, where do we see the school in 1, 2, 3 years and beyond?

- Mr Lufkin is still in the fact-finding and goal setting phase, we will know more following the staff training in November.
- Staff are really behind the plan and are ready to learn and committed to improving standards of teaching and learning at WWPS.



- Mr Lufkin strongly believes that the agreed plan is the most effective and quickest route back to outstanding.
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27. How will we be monitoring the new plan and how will this be communicated; how will the children be tested to see the outcomes?

- The proven methods of checking and reviewing children's books and achievements will be used for monitoring.
- Standardised tests will also be used as appropriate across the different age ranges.
- Peer moderation will be put in place across WPPS and WWPS to maintain the high standards.
- Governors and the school leadership team will be communicating more over the course of the year.