



# Nine Mile Ride School

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A Member of the University of Reading Schools Partnership

Headteacher Mrs Ali Brown BEd (Hons)

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19 December 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, the school had an inspection on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and the staff and governors are very pleased that Ofsted has recognised the quality of the school and its staff by grading us as Good with Outstanding features.

This is the first inspection since June 2008 under the new framework and Nine Mile Ride Primary has received a very positive report with lots to celebrate. The inspectors were extremely complimentary and identified many outstanding features including '*Behaviour and Safety*' and '*Leadership and Management*.' The report highlights the good and outstanding practice that goes on in our school and comments about pupils' outstanding attitude towards learning were very pleasing to read.

We are proud of our achievements and welcome Ofsted's observation that:

- Leadership and management of the school are outstanding. The Headteacher, senior leaders and the governing body are exceptionally well organised and set ambitious targets for staff and each pupil.
- Leaders and teachers think about their own practice and are keen to improve their work through reflection on their own performance.
- The quality of teaching has improved across the school because school leaders have raised expectations of teachers and of what pupils can achieve.
- All staff fully understand their part in making the school very effective.
- Behaviour and safety have remained outstanding. Pupils' behaviour is excellent in and around the school. They have wonderful relationships with adults and each other. Attendance is high because they very much enjoy coming to the school.
- All pupils make at least good progress in writing, mathematics and science and make outstanding progress in reading. This is because teaching is now consistently good and some is outstanding.



There have been four changes in the way that Ofsted inspect and grade schools since our last inspection in June 2008, with the standards becoming more rigorous each time. This increased rigour has been reflected in the judgements Ofsted have made about us.

Ofsted now look at progress over time (3 years) and despite being one of the top performing schools in Wokingham and attainment being consistently above the national standards in writing and significantly above in all other areas, we are slightly disappointed that we did not achieve the Outstanding grade for Achievement of pupils.

Our school cannot be judged as outstanding because:

- There is not enough outstanding teaching to ensure all pupils make excellent progress.
- Standards in writing are not as high as in reading and mathematics, especially for girls.
- There are too few opportunities for pupils to visit different places of cultural interest, including places of worship.

Ofsted also wrote:

- Current school information and inspection evidence indicate that pupils are now making faster progress in reading and mathematics and writing is improving, especially in Years 5 and 6.

This is recognition that the school is demonstrating that the capacity for improvement is strong.

We would like to take this opportunity to explain that the Quality of teaching cannot be judged as outstanding, if Achievement of pupils is not outstanding.

Standards and progress in writing are to be celebrated as they are still above national expectations but the achievement in maths and reading is so strong that it clearly identifies writing as an area to develop. The judgement relating to attainment in girls writing was based solely on end of Key Stage 2 results for one year only and it is not a whole school trend. The following line from the Ofsted report found under leadership and Management supports our comment:

- Equality of opportunity is clearly demonstrated by the way the school cares well for all its pupils and seeks to offer them the same level of challenge and ensures that there is no discrimination.

Ofsted recognised that the school uses self-evaluation effectively to improve the school and as a result, the areas identified by Ofsted are already priorities in the School Development plan for this academic year.

We have all worked extremely hard and the journey has been an extremely rewarding one and the positive benefits of this can be seen throughout the school. We remain committed and passionate about providing the best education possible for the children at Nine Mile Ride and let me assure you that we are looking forward to building on our success.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ali Brown  
Headteacher

Mr Andrew Beckett  
Chair of Governors