



Special School - Primary PRU - Secondary PRU - Hospital Medical



*Inspectors
from OFSTED
rated our
Bridge Street
school 'good'.*



PROUD TO BE OFFICIALLY A 'GOOD' SCHOOL

Our pupils receive expert teaching, re-engage with learning and begin to fulfil their potential, according to Government inspectors.

Children attending the Cedar Grove site, which is to be renamed The Castle School from September, were also found to be calm and orderly in lesson and social time according to the team from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) which rated the school 'good'.

Pupils told inspectors that they are welcomed and supported 'even if they are having a bad day' and the school's guiding principle that 'every day is a fresh start' allows them to set aside previous experiences of education.

Inspectors said the school's core value of 'respect' was evident in all aspects of the provision and positive, respectful relationships between adults and pupils ensure lessons are 'purposeful'.

The school currently caters for pupils who have significant social, emotional and mental health difficulties, special educational needs or disabilities. It is due to increase in capacity in order to cater for more young people as part of the Derby City SEND strategy. All the children attending the school have had a disrupted education and have missed a considerable amount of schooling.

Executive head teacher Mike Pride said: "Many of our pupils have not been able to succeed in mainstream school and some have difficulties in their home lives which means attending school and being successful is challenging.

"We work hard to motivate pupils, working on self-esteem and self-care and we have high expectations. As a result, pupils learn to take responsibility for their own actions and are well prepared to take their place in society.

"We are delighted that the inspectors recognised that we provide a good quality education within a caring environment for our students. Every day at our school is inspiring and our aim is for every pupil to be very best they can be."

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Rain did not stop play at Magna Science Centre

Students from 8N1 had a fantastic time at Magna last term. Magna Science Adventure Centre is based in Rotherham and is a mix of indoor and outdoor activities.

The fire tornado and air maze were definitely indoor favourites and despite the rain the group had a great time on the outdoor adventure play area.

Big thanks to Sarah, Kyle and Laura for making the trip happen and apologies again to parents/carers for your soggy children!



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Inspectors found safeguarding to be effective and said that pupils told them they feel safe at school and display a 'deep, genuine respect for each other's challenges and differences'.

They also found that they 'feel free to express their emotions and beliefs, sometimes for the first time at a school'.

Pupils were found to flourish in English lessons and many were described as 'avid readers who relish books while teaching in other subjects was described as 'strong'.

Leaders are currently revising the existing curriculum, due to the expanding need of the provision, to offer a broader range of subjects and GCSE options and inspectors say this will be 'broad and deep, and ambitious enough for all pupils to realise their full potential'.

The visit was the first inspection since the school was judged to be good in May 2016 and included 'deep dives' into various subjects including English, maths and PSHE.

Mr Pride added: "Although the collection of schools known as Kingsmead have been inspected, this was the first inspection at this school since the pandemic. This was obviously a challenging period for everyone in education but particularly for some of our very vulnerable children.

"This school is going through significant change and investment by Derby City Council and extensive building work will mean we can double in size from September, which means we will be able to help more children achieve success."

Careers fair helps pupils find future ambitions

Our year 11 students attended a careers fair at Pride Park last month to help them in their future search for work or college courses.

Despite the event being very busy, all students engaged well with employers and providers with a few signing up to courses which will start in September.

We were very proud of their outlook and they were good ambassadors for themselves and the school.





A royal celebration for the coronation

Children at all our sites enjoyed celebrating the coronation of King Charles III and staff found multiple ways of weaving the historic event into lessons. We were pleased to see everyone getting into the spirit of the occasion, although it was disappointing that Queen Camilla didn't take our hair and beauty students' advice for the big day!



Mock interviews prepare pupils for the real thing



Students in year 11 at Wisgreaves have attended mock interviews this term and we are very proud of them. They were polite, engaging and well turned out. Well done everyone.



Skills for work and real life

We are currently expanding the range of trades on offer at our construction provision and have recently added painting and decorating.

Students have started to learn how to apply acrylic undercoat using both a brush and roller and are developing the skill of cutting into a straight edge.



Outdoor education helps fire up our students

Under supervision, KS2 pupils were given the opportunity to use hatchets and knives to prepare their own firewood. After the firewood and fire-pit were prepared, the fire was lit. Both pupils behaved extremely responsibly and we look forward to their next fire-lighting session.



Outdoor education is proving to be really successful and we are experiencing some great engagement from pupils.

