



8<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has seemed a long time since our Ofsted inspection, but we have now received the final report.

We were really pleased with the inspection team; they were very thorough, fair, and listened to what pupils, staff, governors and indeed, parents had to say about the school. We all felt that they understood the journey of the school since the previous inspection and the trajectory that we are currently on.

The report covers the five following areas, all of which, with the sole exception of Quality of Education, were judged to be 'Good':

**The Quality of Education** – this includes the school's curriculum, the quality of teaching, the teaching of phonics and how pupils with additional needs are catered for.

**Behaviour and attitudes** – this refers to children's behaviour around the school, whether they feel safe and what their attitudes to learning are like.

**Personal development** – this refers to a variety of things around how the children see themselves and other people in the world and how well the school actively prepares them for the next stage of their education.

**Leadership and management** – this is a wide ranging section taking in how the school is lead and managed at all levels, both from Headteacher/Governor level to individual subjects leaders.

**Early Years provision** – this refers specifically to our Reception and Nursery provision.

Each of these areas are graded separately, with some having more of a weighting than others over the final judgement. The inspectors then use their findings to write the report.

**The overall effectiveness judgement for the school was Requires Improvement.** This is because one aspect of one area (Quality of Education) wasn't sufficiently embedded. The report refers to learning not being sequenced in a way that children retain knowledge from year to year in subjects other than English and mathematics.

The curriculum is not something that can be purchased and adapted but is something that needs time to develop to fit the needs of the school. Staff have, over the last few years, worked hard to change this but we are not quite at the place Ofsted expect schools to be at in all subjects. However, the hard work of staff and children in making progress towards adapting to the changes was recognised. The inspectors noted, "Leaders have introduced a range of changes to improve the school over the last two years. However, more work needs to be undertaken to improve parts of the curriculum." This aspect carried more weight which tipped us into the Requires Improvement category.

Whilst this might seem unfair and disproportionate, we accept that this is where we are as a school and plans were already in motion to address this, which Ofsted did recognise.

In **every** other aspect we were judged to be 'Good'. Our Early Years Provision was found to be very strong and this is because these year groups are further along in the process of embedding the changes that the school needed to make. Without the changes made in the last two years, the school would have certainly had more areas that were found to require significant improvement.

Many more strengths were identified. The leadership and management of the school was found to be effective and capable. The behaviour and safety of the children was also 'Good' and we were pleased that the Inspectors noted that the children demonstrated our values and that "...pupils behave well and focus on their work". These two areas are crucial in ensuring the success of the school.

The inspection team have also asked us to take a fresh look at how we communicate with parents, given that the results of the Parent View consultation did indicate that a number of parent respondents felt that there are areas around this that could be better. We are not complacent in this area, although the number of respondents was relatively low (around 60 at the time of the inspection). One of our objectives now will be to encourage more parents to express their views about how we are doing.

Over the next few months, we will be focusing on the two areas that were identified to improve; to carry on embedding the curriculum changes we were already making and to look at how we can refine and improve communication with our families. We shall also be making sure that parents are kept informed on the progress we are making in addressing these areas.

We would like to thank the staff and our Belle-Vue families for their support both during the Ofsted process and during the last two years which we know have seen significant changes. We feel confident that the changes implemented have set Belle-Vue on the correct path to reach its full potential by ensuring that all children reach theirs.

### **Message from the Chair of Governors**

Every Ofsted inspection brings the opportunity to showcase the ethos and values of a school and I believe that our recent inspection allowed us to do just that. The children displayed pride in their school environment and their learning in both their words and actions, while leaders and staff were unwavering in their commitment to positively impact the learning of every child. All are a credit to Belle Vue.

While we acknowledge that the overall grading may be disheartening, it recognises the hard work and determination of the leaders and staff within the school over the last 2 years, and gives us a validation that the path we are on is the right one that will allow the children and community of Belle Vue to reach their full potential.

We will continue as Governors to both support and challenge the leaders and staff to ensure that the momentum of positive improvement endures.

On behalf of the Governing body I would like to thank our whole community for their dedication to the future of the children of Belle Vue and look forward to celebrating the many achievements to come.

Kind regards

Mr J Marshall

Headteacher

Mrs J Clarke

Chair of Governors