



21st January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

In early 2026, Ofsted introduced changes to the way it inspects schools, academies and other education providers.

We want to help you to understand what these changes mean, and how to interpret the new reports that are being issued for the first time in January 2026.

As Park Grove has recently received its latest inspection report from Ofsted, after an inspection in December 2025, we're writing to you to help you understand this new approach and what it says about Park Grove as the school your child attends.

One of the most significant changes is that Ofsted no longer gives an overall grade, such as 'Outstanding' or 'Good'. Instead, the new-style report cards have colour-coded grades for areas like attendance and behaviour, achievement, personal development and wellbeing, and inclusion. There's a new scale which ranges from 'Exceptional' through to 'Urgent Improvement', while safeguarding is assessed as either 'Met' or 'Not met'.

You'll see that each of the areas assessed will receive both a grading and some supporting commentary to provide more detail about what the inspectors found. Any opportunities for improvement will also be outlined in a 'Next steps' section.

While the report is quite long, and you may not have time to read all of it, we would encourage you to read an important section of the new report called: 'What it's like to be a pupil at this school'. This narrative provides a rounded view of your child's experience of attending our school.

What Ofsted had to say about our school

The Ofsted report says that:

"Pupils enjoy attending this highly inclusive school [which is] reflected in their positive attendance. They benefit from warm, caring relationships with staff and a vibrant, well-resourced learning environment."

"Pupils and their families benefit from positive relationships with the school and a wealth of pastoral support. This helps to remove pupils' barriers to attendance and learning."

"Pupils benefit from a carefully planned programme to promote and support their personal development. The extra-curricular offer is open to all pupils, including children in the early years."

"Leaders set high expectations of pupils' behaviour [...] Pupils take pride in their work and show positive attitudes towards learning. There is a strong culture of mutual respect in the School."



"The curriculum is broad, ambitious, and carefully sequenced across subjects. This allows pupils to revisit and build upon their prior learning in a progressive manner. Leaders' recent refinements to the curriculum, informed by current research, are showing early signs of positive impact."

"Children are happy, inquisitive and eager to learn. They make positive progress from their individual starting points, including children who are disadvantaged or those with special educational needs and/or disabilities."

How Ofsted graded our performance

Our recent inspection has highlighted that we are performing as 'Expected standard' in all but one category, which means we've met all standards in these areas – this includes meeting the legal requirements and the expectations set out in statutory guidance, as well as the professional standards required of the particular type of provision.

Safeguarding standards were assessed as being 'Met', which means that we have an open and positive culture of safeguarding, and all legal requirements are met.

The area that Ofsted rated as 'Needs attention' was Achievement. We are pleased that they recognised that pupils at our school 'achieve well due to a secure curriculum offer across a broad range of subjects'. They also recognised the work we have already done and continue to do to ensure all our students are able to reach their full potential. We continue to prioritise writing as an area of focus, especially for children in receipt of pupil premium funding, to help close gaps in our pupils' knowledge and skills.

We were particularly delighted by the engagement from both staff and parents throughout the inspection. We achieved a 100 per cent positive response in the staff survey which confirmed what we already know - that our staff love working here at Park Grove. We also received feedback from 44 of our families and across all 44 responses, there was no negative feedback. I personally am really proud of this - and am grateful to both our staff and our families for their support.

Below you'll find a set of frequently asked questions which we hope will help to answer any additional queries you may have, but if you need any further information, please get in touch via your child's class teacher or by contacting a member of the senior leadership team.

Many thanks for all of your support, encouragement and good wishes during the whole process.

Kind regards,
Jo Sawyer
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