



Odyssey

Collaborative Trust



FOUR SCHOOLS RATED GOOD BY OFSTED INSPECTORS: SEE INSIDE

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS VISIT ASTERDALE

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As we approach Christmas, I would like to thank all staff, pupils, parents and carers for their efforts this term. The Autumn term is always long, so thank you for your continued efforts across all the Odyssey schools.

For the last few months, I have been the Acting Headteacher at Beaufort Primary School, alongside my role as CEO, but I am pleased to announce that we have appointed a new headteacher. This not only means that Beaufort will be in a safe pair of hands, but I will have more time to spend at our other splendid schools.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to our School Improvement Lead, Gayle Bacon, who is taking up a new role at Greenwood Academies Trust. I am grateful for all of Gayle's efforts across the Trust and I wish her well in the future. This was a new position for the Trust and Gayle worked hard to shape the role, setting us up well for the future.

We have appointed Maxine Bull as interim School Improvement Lead and she will be working with us four days a week from January. Maxine has worked in many of our schools before with Derby City Council, so will be a familiar face to many.

Much of the last few weeks have been taken up with Christmas activities and it has been joyous to see the school nativities, festive fairs and carol singing taking place across our schools. Thank you all for your support with these activities.

All that remains for me to say is have a very Happy Christmas!

Ian Dewes
Odyssey Collaborative Trust CEO



SPORTING PROWESS FOR TRAILBLAZING SCHOOL PUPILS

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PUDSEY EARS AND PYJAMAS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

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OFFICIALLY ‘GOOD’ SCHOOLS

➤➤➤ CHERRY TREE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupils at a primary school in Chaddesen have described the school as their “second family” during a recent Ofsted inspection which judged the school as being ‘Good’.

Lead inspector Stephen Long said pupils showed each other and adults respect and were making positive contributions through being ‘mini leaders’, members of the eco council and school reading ambassadors.

The inspection report stated: “Pupils describe the school as their second family”.

Leaders at Cherry Tree Hill Primary School in Lime Grove were also praised for the ambitious curriculum they have created for pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and the support provided so they can access this full curriculum. The excellent behaviour of pupils and the focus on reading at the school were also praised.

“Pupils are happy and enjoy attending this school. They say they feel safe. Pupils describe the school as their ‘second family’.”

Ofsted inspectors

Head teacher Paul Appleton said it was proof to him and his team that they had focused on the right areas following Covid.

“I was really pleased with the comments about reading and excellent behaviour and it proved to me that, following the pandemic, we have focused on the right things: reading, mental health and extra-curricular activities. Now we have got the confirmation from Ofsted that this is in place, we can push forward and enrich the curriculum even further.”

Systems for rewarding children were also highlighted in the report, particularly the “pupil passports”. These include activities pupils complete before they leave school, such as watching a sunset, baking bread, climbing a tree and posting a letter.

Mr Appleton said this again had helped pupils following the pandemic, and was a wonderful piece of work to look back on when they moved up to senior school.





➤➤➤ SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Springfield Primary School in Spondon was described by pupils as ‘incredible’ during a recent Ofsted inspection which rated it as ‘Good’.

The inspector highlighted the high expectations leaders at the school have for pupils and noted the children feel happy and safe there.

In her report, lead inspector Liz Moore said: “A typical pupil comment about the school was: ‘It’s incredible!’” The school was last inspected in 2018 when it was also judged as good. For headteacher David Blackwell, retaining that standard is confirmation of the hard work and commitment staff and pupils have put in during the past five years.

“The school has gone from strength to strength, and we are particularly pleased with the progress we have made developing the curriculum which was acknowledged by Ofsted,” he said. “As a parent there are three things I want from a school: that my child is happy there and enjoying attending school, that staff care and go the extra mile to help each child to thrive and that they are safe.

“That’s why I’m pleased the inspector noted that pupils here are happy, feel safe and benefit from all the experiences the school offers.”

One area highlighted in the inspector’s report is the school’s enhanced resource facility which was created to provide small group learning in a tailored environment for children with autism.

Staff working within it were praised for the ambitious and tailored curriculum followed in the facility and the emotional and pastoral support they provide.

“Teachers ensure that there are daily opportunities that encourage the children to be curious and link their play to learning in meaningful ways. Children know the routines and treat each other with respect.”

Ofsted inspector

▶▶▶ PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

Pupils at a junior school in Allestree are thriving thanks to the direction and warm environment the school sets, according to Ofsted which has rated the school as 'Good' following a recent inspection.

Portway Junior School calls on its pupils to meet the 'Portway 5' – that is to be responsible, respectful, caring, friendly and active.

Ofsted inspector Aoife Galletly said the pupils were “all of these things,” during her visit to the school.

She also commented on the friendly atmosphere and the fact parents felt staff were approachable, supportive and caring.

For headteacher Emma Wilkinson, it was these comments which were particularly pleasing to hear.

“We really do have an amazing team here, it may sound like a cliché but we call it Team Portway because we have such an amazing team,” she said. “Our parent community is so supportive, and we have a great relationship with parents so it’s great to hear they feel they can talk to us and that they are heard.”

The school was last inspected in 2017, when it was also rated as Good, before it joined Odyssey Collaborative Trust in 2019 and the current leadership team came into post. Miss Wilkinson, who was teaching at the school when it was last inspected, said we are a research-based school which encourages Early Career Teachers to collaborate closely with school mentors.

“It really helps us to understand which teaching methods work best and why,” said Miss Wilkinson. “Quite often we know something achieves results but the research adds that clarity on why it is working so we can really embed that.”



▶▶▶ BORROW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupils thrive, are confident, motivated and behave exceptionally well at Borrow Wood Primary School, according to Government inspectors who rated the school “Good” overall and outstanding in two areas.

Ofsted inspectors praised leaders at the school in Arundel Drive, Spondon, for their high expectations, ambitious and well-organised curriculum and concluded the result was a happy school. Particular praise was given to the personal development

and behaviour and attitudes of pupils, both of which were rated outstanding while all other areas, including leadership, early years provision and quality of education, were judged as good.

Head teacher Zoe Fletcher said: “We are really proud of the outcomes of our recent Ofsted inspection and in particular the two outstanding areas of personal development, and behaviour and attitudes. These exemplify the work the school has done to develop the children to become, what the inspectors described to me as ‘fundamentally decent human beings.’

“I am also particularly proud of inspectors’ comments about personal development opportunities at Borrow Wood being so good they are worthy of sharing with other schools.”



GOLD PRIZE FOR SPORTS

▶▶▶ OAKWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Oakwood Junior School has received its Gold School Games Mark, recognising its commitment to developing competition across the school and the wider community. For head Mrs Atwal, the Government-led award is acknowledgement of the hard work of staff to provide opportunities for children in a broad range of sports and events.

“We have such a dedicated team here at Oakwood Junior School, a team passionate about the wellbeing and futures of our children, and we see the positive role sport plays in helping pupils learn skills such as resilience, healthy competition as well as improving their physical and mental wellbeing,” she said.

Oakwood Junior School has led the way in mixed sport at primary school level, winning the first Derby City Schools Girls Football tournament this year and topping the tables repeatedly in mixed netball.



CREATIVES WIN AWARD

▶▶▶ BORROW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupils and staff at Borrow Wood Primary School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Award in recognition of their work in championing high-quality arts and cultural education. The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education, putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. Artsmark ensures every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

In order to achieve the prize the school had to develop its arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum.

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS IN SCHOOL

▶▶▶ ASTERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Asterdale PTFA has been feeling festive this term and we thought Elfridges - their pop-up shop - was a real Christmas cracker! They also staged a Festive Film Night which was an extremely popular fundraiser.



We've seen some fantastic fundraising for Children in Need this year across our schools - from dinosaurs and Pudsey ears to pyjamas and face paint! It's important that all our children understand the importance of giving and fundraising events like this give us the perfect opportunity to come together as a Trust and raise some money too.

PARALYMPIAN VISITS SCHOOL

➤➤➤ PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL



Great Britain's Paralympic and world champion para-athlete Richard Whitehead recently took some time away from the track to visit pupils at Portway Junior School. The children were able to ask questions about his sporting career after a Year 3 group chose to name their class after him.

Richard was generous with his time and told the pupils to always work hard and try their best - good advice!



FUNDING SECURED FOR BETTER SCHOOL BUILDINGS



We are proud that three of our schools - Oakwood Junior School, Cherry Tree Hill Primary and Beaufort Primary School - were the only ones in Derby to receive money through the Government's Condition Improvement Fund to carry out work on their buildings. At Oakwood Junior School new windows were installed, at Cherry Tree Hill and Beaufort primaries, drainage repair works have been carried out. Over the past four years, our trust has successfully secured around £6million worth of improvements works across six of our seven schools. These have seen roofs and windows replaced in several schools, a boiler replaced and other safety works.

Did you see Portway Junior School on BBC East Midlands Today this term? The TV cameras were in school to film pupils meeting Paralympic athlete Richard Whitehead - you can read more about his visit inside.

Having a film crew in school was an interesting experience for staff and pupils and seeing themselves on television was even more exciting.

Our pupils have also appeared in the Derby Telegraph and Derbyshire Live this term. We think it's extremely satisfying for our children to see their hard work and successful endeavours recognised by the media. And we hope that parents have been able to get hold of copies for them to keep and revisit in the future.



TELEVISION APPEARANCE FOR PUPILS AND STAFF AT PORTWAY



Children at Beaufort Primary School have been enjoying a new library which has been established with support from Peters, a specialist school library company. The school wants to develop a love of reading in all pupils and ensure children have access to high quality books.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

»»» FROM ALL AT ODYSSEY COLLABORATIVE TRUST



**AND FINALLY...
YOUR CHANCE TO
HAVE A SAY »»»**

Staff and parents are invited to have their say in the running of Odyssey Collaborative Trust.

Each year we hold an annual general meeting (AGM) where members hold the board of trustees to account for their strategic oversight of the Trust.

If you have any questions you would like tabled at the meeting, or you have any comments on your experiences of the schools in the Trust, please email them to AGMquestions@odysseyct.org.uk. Questions and comments will be shared at the meeting.