



VICTORIA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Outstanding children | An outstanding school

Victoria Park is a large primary school that serves a rich and diverse multicultural community in the heart of Smethwick. Almost all pupils come from minority ethnic backgrounds with over 65% speaking English as an additional language. Over 40 different languages are spoken by the pupils. Just under one half of families claim for a free school meal. With a budget of £2 million the school employs almost 80 staff who seek continually to transform the lives of all 450 of its children.



Pupils and staff enjoying FILMclub in our cinema.

Where next?

Schools that are judged to be outstanding will no longer receive frequent inspections. This is so that inspectors can spend more time in weaker schools.

As an outstanding school we are now expected to support schools that are not achieving well and we look forward to sharing our exemplary practice.

We are always looking at ways of making our school even better. We welcome Ofsted's two areas that they feel we need to improve on.

Key Issue 1

To raise standards even further by making sure all children can read well, especially by practising at home.

We will also improve even further the high quality teaching across the school.



Pointing the way ahead: Team building fun and games on the field with local scouts and VP pupils.

Key Issue 2

To improve attendance by working closely with those parents who do not send their child to school.

We will also continue to reduce the number of term time holidays by refusing to authorise any requests and following these up.

We will also continue to target those parents who do not ensure that they bring their child to school on time.



Outstanding in so many ways:

- The curriculum
- Safeguarding
- School and local community
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Care, guidance and support
- Leadership and management
- Partnerships
- Community cohesion
- Capacity to improve
- Overall effectiveness

"An outstanding school provides exceptionally well for all its pupils' needs"

Ofsted

Outstanding children. An outstanding school

October 2011

Victoria Park now one of the best!

On Tuesday 4th October 2011, pupils and teachers at VP were quietly going about their business. They had no idea that they were about to receive a telephone call to tell them that Ofsted were arriving in less than 48 hours!

During a two day period (6th and 7th October) a team of four Ofsted Inspectors spent the time in school observing lessons; talking to parents; grilling teachers, governors and staff; quizzing the children, and; looking in books, cupboards and filing cabinets. No stone was left unturned.

It was almost three years since our last inspection and so everyone was understandably nervous. How would we do? We always knew that we had created something special in the heart of Smethwick, but would the Inspectors see it?



Victorious Park football team celebrate as champions!

As the minutes and hours ticked by, it soon became clear that Inspectors were very impressed. 'It's a magical place you've got here,' said one of them to the headteacher.

At this point, we knew we'd done it, especially as Inspectors had seen plenty of outstanding teaching and well behaved and excited children.

Victoria Park is an OUTSTANDING school!

A Smethwick success story

In June 2007, Victoria Park Primary school was in special measures. It was deemed a failing school and was in the bottom 1% of schools nationally.

Many people had given up on the school. But not the teachers. Nor the children. Together, they were determined to build the school from the bottom up to make it a success story to be proud of. And now they've done it!

At last, the standards in the school are similar to all other schools in England.

Children make exceptional progress, many of whom go on to get a Level 4 having only joined the school a few years earlier with no English whatsoever!

Headteacher, Andrew Morrish, joined the school in September 2006 and has seen the school go from strength to strength. He is very proud of all that has been achieved by the many hardworking and dedicated staff. 'They deserve to take a bow, each and every one of them. At long last, they can say they are outstanding...'

Outstanding children | An outstanding school



'A Grand Day Out' on the Severn Valley Railway in our own chartered train!

'The whole school is currently buzzing with excitement'

Ofsted Report

Bringing learning to life.



Outstanding children | An outstanding school

"The pupils of Victoria Park know they go to an outstanding school..."

The above headline is the opening line of our Inspection report. All schools that are inspected receive a detailed report that outlines what schools do well and where improvements are needed. Rarely do reports open so positively, referring immediately to our wonderful children.

Inspectors were so impressed with how polite, respectful, well behaved and well mannered the children were. We weren't surprised to be told this, as we've known this all along: VP pupils are the best!

Comments in the report about the children include:

"Pupils bubble over with enthusiasm when talking about the things they learn."

"Pupils are extremely keen to do well ... they love their learning."

Below are some more comments taken straight from the Inspection report.

The full version can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk or from the school.

Teaching and learning

- The quality of teaching across the school is good and a substantial proportion is **outstanding**.
- Leaders have established a high level of **good practice** across the school.
- Teachers **consistently plan well** to meet the differing needs in their classes.
- Teachers provide a lively environment and a range of **innovative** resources to **excite pupils** and stimulate their imagination.
- **Warm relationships** between adults and pupils are evident in **all** classes.
- ICT is used **very well** to **enrich** learning.
- Teaching assistants are **well deployed** and are **skilled** in providing appropriate support and challenge.
- An increasing proportion of pupils are **achieving the highest levels** in English and mathematics.
- Rates of progress have been **significantly higher** than the national average over the past three years.

As one pupil commented:

'The school looks after its pupils and makes sure that learning is fun.'

The **outstanding** curriculum seeks to provide a continual stream of memorable experiences that stimulate curiosity and inspire writing.

Curriculum

The stimulating, **motivating** and **highly relevant curriculum** results in pupils' evident **love of learning**.

Outdoor learning is **very well developed** and forms part of an **extensive** varied programme of enrichment activities.

Pupils **enjoy** the wealth of active cross-curricular tasks that are provided for them that **make their learning relevant**.

Pupils are **proud** of the school's healthy lifestyle awards and **enjoy the school dinners** and wide variety of sporting activities.

As one pupil commented: 'I am sad when it's Friday because it means no school for two days!'

Care, guidance and support

Safeguarding procedures and practice are **exemplary**.



World Book Day 2011

The range of strategies used to support individuals is **extremely strong**. The school **never gives up** in ensuring that these pupils receive the care they need.

All pupils are known and cared for as individuals.

Transition arrangements are **exemplary**, including home visits and one-to-one pupil meetings to ensure that pupils settle well and **feel secure**.

Pupils say that the school **keeps them safe** and show an **excellent understanding** of how to look after themselves.

The care provided for those pupils and their families who face challenging circumstances is **exemplary**.

All pupils say that they **feel safe** and that there is **always** an adult they can turn to for help.

School community and partnerships

Pupils make an **outstanding** contribution to their school and local community.

The school knows its community well and the promotion of community cohesion is **exemplary**.

The school works **persistently** to engage parents and carers.

Strong partnerships with a significant range of external agencies ensure the **excellent support** for pupils' well-being.

Pupils take an **active role in improving** the local community.

Parents and carers were **overwhelmingly positive**.

Pupils are **proud** of their diverse backgrounds and say that they all **feel part of one family**. They have an **extremely good understanding** of, and respect for, different beliefs.

School council take a **key role** in the **running** of the school.

The school is an **extremely cohesive** and **harmonious** community.

"Pupils **behave well** and are extremely welcoming and confident."

Leadership and management

The inspirational headteacher is supported by a strong team, including a vibrant group of middle leaders, who share his vision, enthusiasm and energy for driving improvement.

Substantial improvements have been made since the previous inspection in all areas of the school's work and the school shows an **outstanding capacity** to sustain these.

The headteacher's very well-defined and well-informed vision of **continuous improvement** is shared by the whole school community.

The governing body provide a **high level** of challenge and support.

Leaders have **high expectations** of staff and pupils.