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|  | <b>SHERBORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL</b><br>Harbour Way Sherborne Dorset DT9 4AJ<br>Telephone 01935 812619 e-mail <a href="mailto:office@sherbornepri.dorset.sch.uk">office@sherbornepri.dorset.sch.uk</a><br>Website <a href="http://www.sherbornepri.dorset.sch.uk">www.sherbornepri.dorset.sch.uk</a><br><i>Executive Headteacher: Mr Ian Bartle BA Ed (Hons) NPQH</i><br><i>Head of School: Mrs Felicity Griffiths BA Hons QTS</i> |  |
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Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear parents and carers,

We are pleased to be able to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection with you. As you know, we got the call from Ofsted on the first day back after the Christmas break, and we were one of the first schools to be inspected under the new Ofsted framework.

**What Ofsted said:**

**"Leaders have developed an inclusive culture with a clear commitment for all pupils to achieve, belong and thrive."**

**"Pupils at Sherborne Primary enjoy being part of this caring community."**

**"Leaders have created a positive culture of behaviour within the school."**

**"Staff have high expectations for behaviour and help children to learn how to work collaboratively with others."**

**"Leaders have adopted an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum."**

**"The school encourages pupils to be ambitious for their future."**

**"Everyone plays a part in making the Sherborne Primary community a kind and respectful place."**

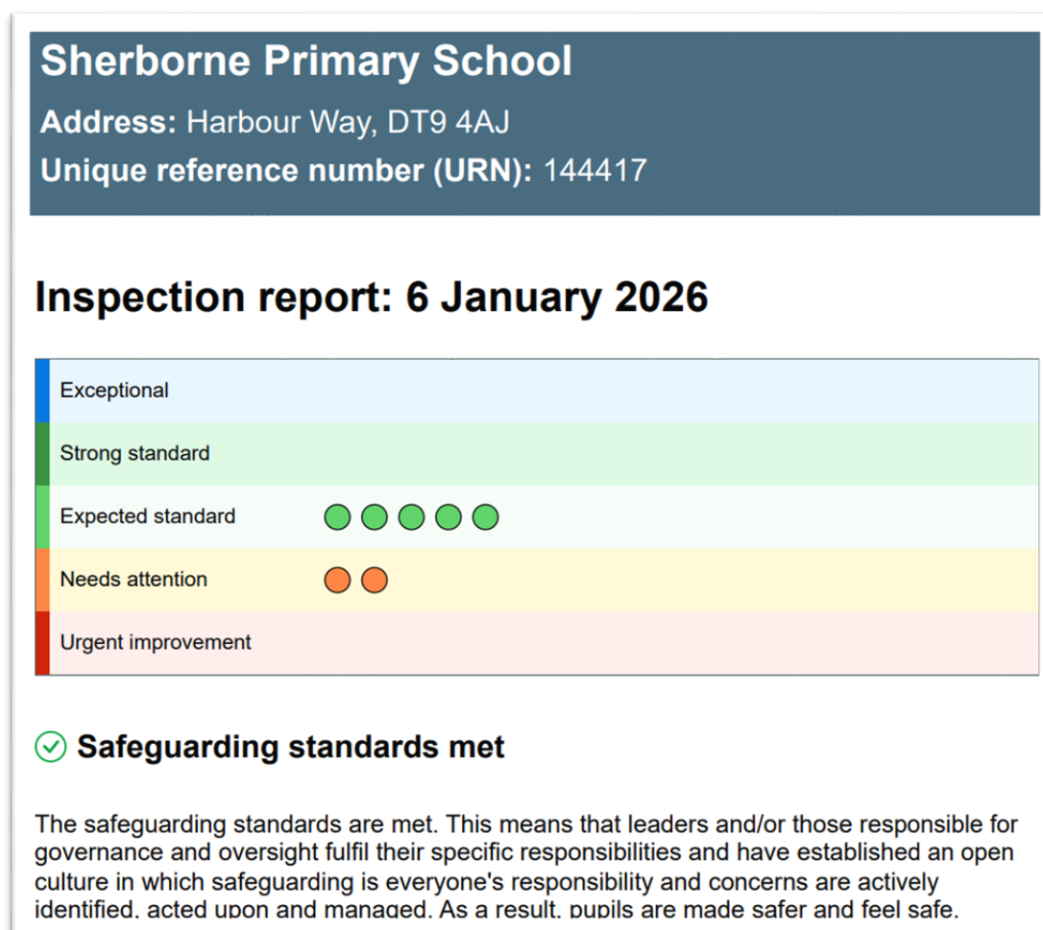
**"The school's values highlight the importance given to developing the individual character of pupils and preparing them for adult life."**

**"The school and trust have high expectations for attendance."**

I have recorded a video explanation of the report here:

<https://www.loom.com/share/7c00fa35e52e424081cb3cfec4f43d07> or you can read more detail in this letter.

Previously schools were given one overall grade of 'Good' for example, but now schools receive a report card where Inspectors award grades on a 5-point scale across 7 different performance areas. Safeguarding standards are assessed independently as 'met' or 'not met'.



Safeguarding is a very strong area for our school, and we are pleased to share that we met the criteria.

For the other inspection areas there are very strict criteria that must be achieved – and to get the grade you must meet all of them – it is not best fit, it is complete fit.

We are delighted to share that we met the expected standard in the following areas:

- Attendance and Behaviour
- Early Years
- Inclusion

- Leadership & Governance
- Personal Development & Wellbeing

Inspectors praised our positive culture of behaviour, our high expectations for attendance, our inclusive culture, our hard-working staff, and of course our wonderful children!

Two areas were graded as needing attention. Whilst we met much of the criteria, because we didn't meet all the criteria, these were highlighted by Ofsted. There were areas we had already included in our school development plan back in September for improvement.

### 1.Achievement

This is largely based on our public published data which is available at the end of the report and also on our website.

Since Covid we have seen our data fluctuate, instead of being consistent which is what Ofsted are looking for. This has been a key area of focus for us, and we recognise why this was picked up by Ofsted. We are already optimistic about our SATs data for this summer and expect to see this grade uplifted.

### 2. Curriculum & Teaching

Again, whilst we performed well against much of the criteria, there were some inconsistencies picked up on. These were centred around foundational handwriting and marking feedback. As many of you will know if you came to our Inspire afternoons, we have been working hard on handwriting, and these were planned at the start of the year. We will continue to focus on improving handwriting for all children, and ensuring they use the correct pencil grip. With regards to marking feedback, we will be working to ensure all pupils are given the chance to correct any mistakes by providing lots of practice opportunities in class.

Below we have shared the criteria for Curriculum & Teaching, so you can see what needs to be achieved in full for each grade.

## Grading curriculum and teaching

| Needs attention                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Expected standard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Strong standard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <p><b>Curriculum and teaching are likely to be graded 'needs attention' when the expected standard has not been met.</b></p> <p><b>This may include when one or more of the following applies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders' ambitions for the curriculum and teaching are appropriate, but weaknesses or inconsistencies in implementation have a negative impact on pupils in general or on a particular group.</li> <li>Leaders have only recently started to take action to improve the curriculum and teaching. While their actions are appropriate, they are at an early stage. This means it is too soon to determine the impact of this work.</li> <li>Leaders have considered appropriate adaptations to teaching for disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to their learning and/or well-being, but these adaptations are not well matched to pupils' needs.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Curriculum and teaching meet the 'expected standard' when all the following apply:</b></p> <p>Leaders have an accurate and informed understanding of the quality of the curriculum and teaching across the school. They draw on this when deciding how to deploy staff and allocate resources, and to identify when timely action is needed to bring about improvement.</p> <p>Leaders ensure that the curriculum is suitable and well planned for each subject and year group. It identifies clear end points and is appropriately sequenced to build on what has already been taught and learned.</p> <p>Leaders ensure that the curriculum is generally taught well. Teachers draw on their knowledge of pupils' needs and starting points and an evidence-informed understanding of effective teaching and how pupils learn.</p> <p>Leaders make sure that teachers have, or gain, the expertise they need for the subjects and phases they teach.</p> <p>Leaders ensure that all pupils who are at the early stages of learning to read are taught to do so through systematic synthetic phonics.</p> <p>Leaders and staff are particularly aware of pupils who have not yet secured the necessary</p> | <p><b>Curriculum and teaching meet the 'strong standard' when the 'expected standard' has been met and all the following apply:</b></p> <p>Leaders make astute decisions about how the curriculum and teaching should adapt and evolve, based on their evidence and insight about how well pupils have learned what was intended.</p> <p>Leaders ensure that the curriculum is of a consistently high quality across subjects and year groups. Leaders have a sophisticated understanding of the differences between subjects, so that pupils' learning at each stage can be secured quickly and shaped carefully in the anticipation of future learning.</p> <p>Leaders ensure that the curriculum is consistently taught well. Highly effective teaching is embedded across subjects and year groups. Teaching ensures that pupils consistently develop their language and vocabulary, both spoken and written, and increase their reading competency, across subjects.</p> <p>Teachers consistently make highly effective choices about what to teach, and when and how to teach it, in the context of the subject, phase and pupils' needs.</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>foundations in communication and language, reading, spelling, handwriting and mathematics. They take appropriate action to secure this foundational knowledge.</p> <p>Leaders and staff generally use assessment well to check understanding and make changes to teaching and/or the curriculum, as necessary.</p> <p>Leaders and staff are clear about the importance of high-quality teaching, supplemented with targeted academic support. Any reasonable adjustments or adaptations to the curriculum or teaching for particular pupils are generally considered and implemented carefully. EHC plans are properly considered when designing and delivering the curriculum.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>The school's approach to the curriculum and teaching for disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to their learning and/or well-being is implemented consistently well across the school to remove barriers to achievement for these pupils.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Under the new Ofsted inspections we can request to be re-inspected on these 'Needs attention' areas after 3 months. This is something we will warmly welcome, and we are confident when re-examined, Ofsted will see a marked improvement.

We encourage all parents to read the full Ofsted report, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Felicity Griffiths

Head of School