

Review of Hill View Infant School, Sunderland

November 2016

Key points taken from report by Ruth Swales

Strengths

- Senior leaders and Governors have a secure understanding of the current strengths and areas for development in the school. They are highly reflective and monitor the quality of teaching, learning and assessment rigorously. This is a strength of the school.
- Expectations throughout the leadership team are high, leaders have worked hard to establish “Hill view standards” for all staff and these are well understood.
- The work of leaders at all levels in developing agreed standards documentation which links to the National Curriculum 2014 is impressive
- The school is an exciting place to be, many classrooms buzz and children are keen and eager to learn. Learning environments are generally very vibrant, with a range of activities which engage pupils well. The curriculum is interesting and exciting and is enhanced by the use of experts such as the French teacher, Little Dribblers, music lessons, the outdoor learning environments which all children access and visits and visitors to the school.
- The use of continuous provision throughout the school enhances children’s learning effectively and allows children to embed key skills.
- The specific focus on ensuring that teaching engages boys in reading and writing is highly effective. Boys choose to read and write and enjoy the level of challenge and opportunities provided.
- Work in children’s books shows clear progression, with effective marking for improvement which the children understand and use to improve their work.
- Children are polite, well- mannered and very well behaved, they enjoy talking about their learning and are keen to share their work.
- The school’s procedures are exemplary and leaders have taken swift and decisive action when necessary to safeguard children.
- British values are well understood by pupils and they are demonstrated in the day to day running of the school.
- Behaviour at lunch and playtimes is good, children respect each other and value the opportunities and equipment provided for them.
- Outcomes for pupils across the school have been consistently high for a number of years, pupil progress from their starting points is impressive.
- . Teaching throughout Early Years is strong and children make very good progress. Relationships with parents and families are positive.
- Children in EYFS are engaged, motivated, independent and relish challenge, they are confident to try new activities and enjoy their learning.

Areas for development

- Ensure that leaders are able to hold teachers to account to secure improvements in their subject area
- Consider the use of adults to develop language skills in continuous provision.
- Raise the profile of safeguarding throughout the school building by displaying pictures of the safeguarding team at key entrance points to the school
- Ensure that throughout the school all adults are interacting effectively with children in continuous provision to develop oracy, storytelling, vocabulary and a love of language.