

Inspection of Capenhurst CofE Primary School

Capenhurst Lane, Capenhurst, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6HE

Inspection dates: 15 and 16 February 2022

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| Overall effectiveness | Good |
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| The quality of education | Good |
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| Behaviour and attitudes | Good |
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| Personal development | Good |
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| Leadership and management | Good |
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| Early years provision | Good |
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| Previous inspection grade | Good |
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What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils come to this welcoming school happy and eager to learn. They benefit from warm and encouraging relationships with staff who know them well. This helps them to feel safe and secure. Pupils, including children in the Reception class, are considerate of each other and get on well together. Pupils who have joined the school recently said that they have settled in quickly and made friends easily.

Pupils know that leaders want them to do their best. They are polite, articulate and enthusiastic when talking about their learning. They behave well and work hard in lessons to reach their teachers' high expectations. Pupils understand the importance of treating everyone with respect, regardless of any differences. They trust that if bullying should happen, staff will sort it out quickly.

Pupils appreciate being able to talk to staff if anything bothers them. They know that if they share concerns, staff will do their best to help them.

Pupils are proud to make a difference by being a member of the ethos council or by raising funds for local charities. They appreciate the after-school clubs they can attend. Pupils in key stage 2 are excited about their forthcoming residential visit to Wales.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Using the national curriculum as the starting point, leaders have designed a curriculum which is suitably ambitious for pupils. This includes those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

For each subject, leaders are clear about the content that pupils need to know and remember. They have ensured that content is delivered in a logical order so that new learning builds on what pupils know already. This supports pupils to know more and remember more over time. For instance, in mathematics, children in the Reception class use their footprints to measure and compare each other's height. Pupils in Year 4 use rulers to measure objects accurately in centimetres.

In most subjects, pupils' work follows the expectations that leaders have laid out. Teachers and leaders check regularly on how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum. That said, in a few subjects, leaders have not made clear enough for teachers the small steps in learning and the important vocabulary that pupils need to know. This hinders teachers when designing learning, and very occasionally they miss out important content.

Leaders have placed a high priority on pupils learning to read well. Children start to learn phonics as soon as they start in the Reception class. The books that staff select for pupils to practise their reading match the sounds that they know. This helps pupils to become more confident readers. Leaders keep a check on how well

pupils know and remember sounds and staff provide extra support for those pupils who fall behind. This ensures that most pupils become fluent and accurate readers by the end of Year 2. Leaders have recently implemented a new phonics curriculum and ensured that staff have received training to deliver this new approach. However, a minority of staff require some additional support to deliver this new programme consistently well.

Older pupils enjoy the books that their teachers read to them in class. Teachers use these carefully selected texts successfully as a stimulus for pupils' writing.

Leaders ensure that the needs of pupils with SEND are identified early. Teachers deploy a range of effective approaches to enable this group of pupils to access a full curriculum and to achieve well. Parents and carers speak highly of the support that their children receive.

By investing in specialist staff training, leaders have improved the support that they offer to pupils who need help with their emotional well-being. This helps pupils to regulate their behaviour. Learning is therefore rarely disrupted.

In the early years, staff focus appropriately on developing children's language and communication. Children listen attentively and chat confidently to each other. They build strong social relationships and are encouraged to talk about their feelings.

Leaders provide pupils with many opportunities to learn about the wider world. Pupils learn about how to stay physically and mentally healthy. They are keen to explain about the work they have completed on gender stereotypes.

Governors have a clear understanding of their roles. They gather the information that they need to offer appropriate support and challenge to leaders about the quality of education for pupils.

Staff said that they feel part of a team. They appreciate that school leaders are approachable and considerate of their workload.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders ensure that staff have regular training to help them to recognise the signs that could indicate that a pupil is at risk from or suffering harm. Leaders have a strong oversight of individual cases. They work effectively with other agencies to provide the support that vulnerable pupils and their families need.

Leaders ensure that the school's curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, they have regular lessons about online safety and learn about some of the features of healthy relationships.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- A new phonics curriculum has recently been introduced by leaders. Some staff are still honing their expertise in delivering this programme. Leaders should ensure that staff are supported to deliver the phonics programme consistently well, including providing the expert additional support that some pupils need to catch up quickly. This will ensure that a greater number of pupils become accurate, fluent and confident readers by the end of Year 2.
- Occasionally, teachers do not have precise clarification about the important curriculum content to prioritise and revisit. This means that, from time to time, teachers do not focus sufficiently well on the most useful knowledge and vocabulary that pupils should know and remember. Leaders should ensure that subject leaders check that teachers from Reception to Year 6 are clear about the important knowledge and vocabulary that pupils should know, so that they are prepared for subsequent learning.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the school and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

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| Unique reference number | 111271 |
| Local authority | Cheshire West and Chester |
| Inspection number | 10212220 |
| Type of school | Primary |
| School category | Voluntary controlled |
| Age range of pupils | 4 to 11 |
| Gender of pupils | Mixed |
| Number of pupils on the school roll | 100 |
| Appropriate authority | The governing body |
| Chair of governing body | Lezley Sutherland |
| Headteacher | Claire Green |
| Website | www.capenhurstcep.cheshire.sch.uk |
| Date of previous inspection | 12 September 2019, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 |

Information about this school

- The governing body has had four new members who have joined since the previous inspection.
- The school does not make use of alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- This was the first routine inspection the school has received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with school leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors held discussions with the headteacher and the senior teacher. They also spoke with subject leaders and members of staff. They spoke with three members of the governing body including the chair of governors. Inspectors also spoke with representatives of the local authority and of the Diocese of Chester.

- Inspectors observed pupils' behaviour in classrooms, around the school and during playtime and lunchtimes. They spoke with different groups of pupils to discuss their views of the school, their learning, their behaviour and safety.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in early reading, mathematics, geography and science. For each deep dive, inspectors met with subject leaders, reviewed curriculum plans, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. The lead inspector also observed pupils reading to a familiar adult. Inspectors also considered aspects of a number of other subjects on the school's curriculum.
- Inspectors considered the views of parents and carers shared through Ofsted Parent View and spoke to parents. This included the comments received via the free-text facility. Inspectors also reviewed the responses to Ofsted's online staff survey and the survey for pupils.
- Inspectors considered a range of documentation shared by school leaders, including the school development plan, the minutes taken at governors' meetings and leaders' self-evaluation document.
- The inspectors checked the arrangements for keeping pupils safe. They reviewed safeguarding documentation, attendance and behaviour records and spoke to leaders, staff and pupils.

Inspection team

Janette Walker, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Lindy Griffiths

Ofsted Inspector

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