

Inspection of Somerset Bridge Primary School

Stockmoor Drive, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6AH

Inspection dates: 5 and 6 March 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Early years provision	Good
Previous inspection grade	Good

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils flourish at Somerset Bridge Primary School. The school's exceptional pastoral care helps them to feel safe and valued. As soon as they start in the early years, children and families feel that they belong to the school community. Pupils who have recently joined the school feel welcome and settle in quickly. These positive relationships set pupils up well for learning.

The school's four values to aspire, care, be brave and to collaborate, underpin daily life. Pupils are encouraged to play an active role in the school community. Many feel proud of the contributions they make. For example, the e-safety team meet regularly and report back to their classes on different ways to stay safe online.

Pupils' behaviour is highly positive. Nursery and Reception children know the routines and adults' expectations of them. They develop curiosity and confidence in their environment which helps them to build independence. Pupils in key stage 1 and 2 are respectful to one another. This is seen in the way they listen to each other's contributions and collaborate on tasks effectively. This respect for one another means that pupils of all backgrounds, ages and special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) learn well together.

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

The school's vision for excellence is visible in school life. The academic curriculum is designed to give every pupil the knowledge they need to succeed in the future. The wider curriculum for pupils' personal development, is extensive. The school has thought carefully about its pupils' local context and needs. This is particularly the case for those who are disadvantaged. The school's offer broadens pupils' experiences and aspirations, building cultural capital for all.

The curriculum is thoughtfully designed, including for the early years. The school has sequenced the knowledge and vocabulary they want pupils to know. As a result, pupils' learning builds over time and they know, remember and do more. This has raised outcomes for pupils, particularly in mathematics and writing. In art and design, for example, pupils learn and refine specific knowledge and skills in painting. They then use these to produce art work of a high quality.

Children in the nursery enjoy listening to rhymes and familiar stories. This gives them a curiosity for language and communication. As a result, they develop secure foundations for reading and writing in Reception. Adults in the nursery work well together to provide plenty of opportunities for children to practise and consolidate their learning. This gets children off to a flying start before beginning school.

Children learn phonics as soon as they start in Reception. The phonics programme builds on children's enjoyment of language, and they learn to blend sounds and segment words well. They enjoy the books they read which are well matched to the sounds they know. As a result, they develop fluency and accuracy as they move

through key stage 1. Older pupils enjoy learning through a broad range of texts that develop complexity in structure, plot and vocabulary.

Teachers expertly craft learning. The school prioritises effective training for teachers. This means teachers build strong subject knowledge. They use school-agreed teaching strategies to help pupils to learn well. Teachers check on pupils' understanding and address misconceptions immediately. The school has identified the need to refine assessment in the wider curriculum. Work is underway to match assessments more closely to the knowledge pupils need to know. However, this is not yet having an impact on pupils' learning across the school.

Pupils with SEND learn well. This is because their needs or barriers have been accurately identified. Teachers then ensure that these pupils have the right support across the curriculum. The school works well with parents and external agencies to review pupils' progress and targets to help them to reach their potential.

Governors are highly committed to fulfilling their statutory duties. They support and challenge the school to achieve its vision for pupils. This stems from a clear understanding of pupils' contexts and needs. Relationships with staff are highly constructive. As a result, staff feel supported and encouraged. The school is clearly committed to improving the wider school system. It welcomes professionals from other settings to share the good practice within the school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Improvements to assessment in the wider curriculum are very recent and have not yet had time to have an impact on pupils' gaps in knowledge. Therefore, in a few subjects, pupils do not always learn as well as they could. The school must continue its work to refine assessment so that learning builds on what pupils already know and closes any gaps in knowledge across the wider curriculum.

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.

Further information

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

In the report, 'disadvantaged pupils' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the [definition of children in need of help and protection](#); pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's [pupil premium funding](#) (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).

School details

Unique reference number	123695
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	10315604
Type of school	Primary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	409
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Darren Argrave
Headteacher	Kevin Bryant
Website	www.somersetbridge.co.uk
Date(s) of previous inspection	17 July 2018, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The school has provision for two, three and four-year-olds.
- The school uses one unregistered alternative provider.

Information about this inspection

The inspector(s) carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Inspections are a point-in-time judgement about the quality of a school's education provision.

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading, mathematics, art and design and geography. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work.

- Inspectors held meetings with the headteacher, deputy headteacher, special educational needs coordinator, curriculum leaders, teaching and support staff, members of the governing body, including the chair of governors, and the local authority.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, the inspectors: reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.
- The lead inspector listened to pupils read to an adult.
- Inspectors observed pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the school site. In addition, they met with pupils informally and formally to hear their views.
- Inspectors considered responses to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View, including free-text responses. Inspectors also took into consideration responses to the staff and pupil surveys.
- Inspectors examined a range of documentation provided by the school, including the school's improvement plan and self-evaluation form.

Inspection team

Angela Folland, lead inspector	His Majesty's Inspector
Catherine Leahy	Ofsted Inspector
Jo Hicks	Ofsted Inspector

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