



Principal: Mrs R Curtis
Summerhill Academy
Plummer's Hill
St George
Bristol
BS5 7JU

Tel: 0117 903 0347

Email: info@sa.cabot.ac.uk

Website: www.summerhillacademy.org.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

Following our Ofsted inspection on April 11th and 12th this year, I am writing to inform you that the full report is available for you to read on our school website, under "letters home" and on Ofsted's website <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/138658>

Should you require a paper copy of the report please ask at the academy office, where they will be happy to print you one.

Whilst the academy was due, in principle, to undergo a short inspection, Ofsted's processes of risk assessment, based on recent historical outcomes, indicated that the inspection should be converted to a full section 5, 2-day inspection, ahead of the inspectors' arrival. As you will see from the report, the good work of teachers and leaders this year is recognised, along with many strengths that emerged over the course of the two days. There is clear recognition that the new leadership team are taking the school in the right direction, shaping the improvement journey, whilst retaining many of the aspects of the academy that have been strengths for some time. Whilst it is always a disappointment to not be awarded at least the same judgement as your previous report, the judgement on Summerhill Academy is a fair reflection of where we are on our development journey.

The written report has many positives to celebrate including:

- Improvement is being driven at a rapid pace. Leaders plans for improvement are detailed and result from accurate evaluation of the academy's strengths and areas for development.
- The school's ethos of "Inspire to Aspire" is understood by staff and pupils alike. This is leading to improvements in the quality of teaching, standards of behaviour and, in turn, pupils' outcomes.
- The curriculum provides pupils with engaging opportunities to develop their knowledge and apply their skills across a range of subjects.
- Safeguarding is effective.
- In small-group activities and one-to-one interventions, disadvantaged pupils and those who have SEN and/or disabilities make good progress. This is because teaching in these sessions is focused precisely on pupils' needs.
- Assessment information for current pupils shows that rates of progress have increased during this academic year. The majority of pupils are now making the progress expected of them from their starting points in Year 3. This information is supported by the work seen in pupils' books.
- When teaching is strongest, pupils develop knowledge and enquiry skills as well as the ability to think deeply and reflect on their learning.
- The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is good. Staff know their pupils well and intervene swiftly to address barriers to pupils' learning.

- Pupils are polite and well mannered. They are welcoming to visitors and proud of their school. Their conduct around the school at lunchtimes and playtimes is good.

All of the **areas for improvement** had already been identified by Summerhill and the CLF, so we are continuing work on:

- Using assessment information to match the learning planned more closely to the needs of all pupils and to respond to pupils in lessons.
- Further developing teachers' knowledge of the learning journey our children are on and the curriculum requirements/subject knowledge for all curriculum areas.
- Increasing the amount of challenge experienced by all children in all lessons.
- Further developing the mastery approach, particularly in maths to ensure sufficient challenge.
- Developing effective communication with parents/carers so that they are aware of Summerhill's development journey and the progress their children are making.

At Summerhill, we had already begun our development journey. We are pleased that all of the developments that have taken place this year were recognised as positive improvements for the school. We have been, and will continue to develop, reflect and refine the teaching and learning at Summerhill. Exciting times are ahead to ensure that Summerhill is the best it can be!

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any element of the report with any of you who have comments or questions. I will be available to do this on the gate tomorrow morning and at parents evening tomorrow after school, until 7pm. I will be based in the Learning Lab adjacent to the upstairs hall, please do pop in and see me!

Best wishes



Rebecca Curtis
Principal